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THE HUMAN BLOCKADE

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MINNESOTA TO
LOATHE US



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OF THE WEEK

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SAVAGE LOVE
CROSSWORD

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GLEN STUBBE,
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SATURDAY, OCT. 22 7:30 PM

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92 KQRS

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THE SHORTLIST



The disgusting sights
and bloody faces of
the Zombie Pub Crawl
citypages.com/slideshows

CHRIS JUHN

THE STAT SHEET

31

Number of "credible instances"
of voter fraud from 2000 to 2014,
out of more than
1 billion ballots

\$35m

How much you'll have to pay
to own Prince's vault
of unreleased music

7.9%

Property tax hike approved
by St. Paul City Council

MINNESOTA MUSIC

HOW MANY TIMES must Bob Dylan be called, before he'll accept his Nobel? And how many times must the Swedes be ignored, before they give up on their quest? The answer, my friends, is — well, actually, it seems Nobel organizers have reached their limit of friendly emails and phone calls to Dylan and his people. The famously reclusive artist has yet to accept his recently awarded Nobel Prize in literature, or RSVP to the celebration in Stockholm on December 10. "I have called and sent emails to his closest collaborator and received very friendly replies," Sara Danus, the academy's permanent secretary, told Radio Sweden. "For now, that is certainly enough."

"Ghost ship.
For sure.
I've always
pictured Jesus
a little taller."

Reader Seth Doud responds to "Fox News asks: Is Lake Superior mystery object a 'ghost ship'? Or just giant Jesus?" on citypages.com

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

The shockingly normal life of one
TWIN CITIES PROSTITUTE

MAYSLACK'S reacts to the ugly
treatment of a gay customer.
And so does he.

VIKINGS FAN in Wisconsin
stabbed seven times defending
giant lawn inflatable

I'm an **OLD DUDE** who
wants a younger woman.
Why can't I have that?

THE PRINCE TRIBUTE at
the Xcel Energy Center, from the
unforgettable to the regrettable

STREET CRIME

Edina mayor says city 'will learn from' black man's arrest video

Edina's first official reaction to the arrest of Larnie Thomas was a defensive one.

On Friday, as the internet reacted to the video of Thomas getting arrested for walking in the street, the city rushed out a statement explaining what happened around noon last Wednesday. In short: What happened was Thomas' fault, and the woman who filmed the incident was putting everyone there at risk.

That woman, Janet Rowles, who is white, says explicitly she pulled over to film Thomas' interaction with a cop because she worried the 34-year-old Minneapolis man might be mistreated "because of his ethnicity."

Rowles says she and other motorists were able to easily drive past Thomas, who had been forced into the roadway due to a sidewalk closure, because he was "literally walking down the white line that

marks the shoulder."

She tells a different story than the one the officer (and the city) had. In its statement, Edina said Thomas was walking "in the southbound lane of traffic," and the cop needed to pull over and speak to him due to "the risk to the safety of the public."

Thomas was cited with disorderly conduct and failure to obey a traffic signal as a pedestrian, a crime that doesn't seem to be much of an issue for all the white folks jaywalking carefree in Minneapolis and St. Paul every day.

On Sunday, Edina Mayor Jim Hovland struck a different tone in a statement addressing Thomas' arrest. Hovland says the cop was "following established protocol" in confronting Thomas. But that might not be a good thing.

"[Edina] will review that protocol and determine how to better approach this type of incident with greater sensitivity




The woman who filmed the arrest worried Thomas might be mistreated "because of his ethnicity." YOUTUBE

in the future," Hovland said.

The mayor says any such changes would be made with city officials working in concert with "other organizations." The Minneapolis NAACP was quick to seize on the arrest of Thomas, and the immediate defensive position the city took, as evidence of a systemic problem there. The activist group called for a six-point list of demands to be met, including the suspension without pay of officer Tim Olson, pending results of

an independent investigation, and a formal apology from Mayor Hovland and Police Chief Dave Nelson to Thomas.

Hovland's statement stopped short of apologizing, though the mayor observed that the pedestrian citations Thomas faced will be dropped. According to Hovland, Thomas was not taken to jail after the video ended, but was instead "driven to a nearby shopping mall at his request and released." —MIKE MULLEN



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The persons depicted are models used for illustrative purposes.

News You Can Abuse

Anoka County saves money and loses face

A stack of papers gets dropped off inside the Anoka County government center each week. The pages sit largely unnoticed until someone comes along to throw them in the recycling.

It's a simple product, the Anoka County Record. Three pages of regular printer paper, each copy neatly folded in half. Frills? The Anoka County Record doesn't even have staples.

The front page of a recent edition featured a list of people running for city council in various suburbs, and the language of a ballot question to fund a community center in Blaine. But it gets livelier inside.

That's where readers are treated to the "Anoka County Watchdog," penned by one Harold Hamilton. His pieces — disclaimed as a "PAID ADVERTISEMENT" — are best described as political jags where he airs his grievances at thousands of words a pop.

In August, Hamilton slammed candidates for the Anoka County Board — one is supported by "uber wealthy DFL donors who have contributed enormous sums to Democrats" — and rants about "Hillary and Slick Willie," and Gov. Mark "Dayton's army of accountants, lawyers, and tax advisers."

Not exactly the news from Lake Wobegon.

The last few pages are even less interesting. By Minnesota law, counties must publish their official legal notices — such as bankruptcies, business filings, and foreclosure announcements. These are the fine print of classifieds, informing Anoka citizens of things like the registration of "FootHealth Pedorthic Services" in Andover.

The Anoka County Record won the contract to handle them, making it the official paper of record for the county.

The paper is published and largely assembled by one man, John Kysylcyzn. It's a tough name. He's done well with it.

Elected mayor of Roseville in 1999 at the tender age of 27, Kysylcyzn (pronounced kiss-e-LISH-en) flamed out after one stormy term in which he tangled with media and fellow officials. He learned a lot about both.

Kysylcyzn became a political consultant and started publishing his glorified pamphlet in 2011.

How'd a guy with twice as many consonants in his surname as years of publishing experience convince Anoka County to trust it with the legal business of its 330,000 constituents?

Simple. First, he sued. Then he made the county an offer it couldn't refuse.

Kysylcyzn argued that cities and counties are legally obligated to pick the "lowest [cost] responsive, responsible bidder," a phrase he repeats in conversation like a Zen mantra. Conveniently, the statute makes no mention of quality.

"Some people try to twist the publication of public notices into some sort of public policy issue, a political decision," Kysylcyzn says. "It's not. Minnesota law is very clear on this."

Kysylcyzn sensed weakness in the Anoka County Union, a small, struggling, traditional suburban paper, and underbid it for the county's business. He promised to do the county's paperwork gig for \$15,000, about a quarter of what Anoka paid previously.

The County Union, part of the ABC Newspapers chain, has a circulation of about 4,200. Kysylcyzn prints a 10th of that. But his price was persuasive.

"We made the decision in the best interest of taxpayers," says Rhonda Sivarajah,

Anoka County Board chairwoman. "We went with the lowest-cost bidder, the lowest qualified bidder."

The decision was controversial, but Kysylcyzn writes off his detractors as a "small group of politically opinionated people," who allege his dealings with the county are the result of professional connections. (He set up Sivarajah's campaign website in 2012, though she says they don't have an ongoing business relationship.)

They also say the Record is a right-wing rag.

Their main evidence is Kysylcyzn's association with Harold Hamilton, the "watchdog" who happens to own the building that houses Kysylcyzn's office.

Hamilton, who owns the Micro Control tech company in Minneapolis, is among the most giving Republican donors in Minnesota history: Since just 2015, he and his wife Elanor have donated \$58,000 to Republican candidates in-state.

Hamilton's also generous on the federal level, where he's given about \$160,000 to the party and people like U.S. Reps. Michele Bachmann, John Kline, and Erik Paulsen.

Not all the horses Hamilton backs win. In 2014, he donated the maximum \$5,200 to longshot congressional candidate Rhonda Sivarajah, chairwoman of the county board that grave Kysylcyzn its business.

Kysylcyzn rejects the claim his paper's a Republican outlet. He "regularly" prints pieces by Democrats like Rep. Carolyn Laine (DFL-Columbia Heights).

Not that she has anything to do with it. Laine says Kysylcyzn just takes emails she sends to constituents and reprints them as op-eds. Legislators get his little newsletter delivered, free and unsolicited, at the Capitol.



Mike Mullen

"It's definitely a person's blog," she says, though it's legally "considered a newspaper."

Last year, Laine authored a bill that would mandate counties giving their public notice business to the newspaper with the highest circulation within that "political subdivision." She wrote it in response to Kysylcyzn winning Anoka's contract.

"He's getting financing for his private work, via becoming a legal 'newspaper,'" Laine says. "It's an interesting way to do it. But it's not what [the legislature] meant."

What they meant, when Minnesota passed the law in the 1890s, was to inform the public — for the first time ever — what government was up to.

And so it is in Anoka County. If you want information about your government, and the depths it will sink to to cut its budget, spend the three and a half minutes it takes to breeze through the Anoka County Recorder.

You can subscribe for home delivery for just \$100 a year, check or money order. Copies are also available for free at the Anoka County government center and the Minnesota State Capitol, where they keep showing up, even if no one's asking for them. Check the recycling bin. ☐

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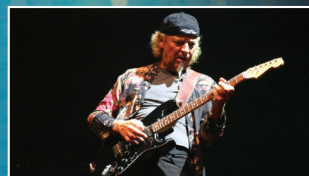
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OCTOBER 20 & 21



**THE HOT
SARDINES**
OCTOBER 27



**LANDAU EUGENE
MURPHY, JR.**
OCTOBER 28



MARTIN BARRE
OF JETHRO TULL
OCTOBER 29 & 30



**HALLOWEEN WITH DAVINA
& THE VAGABONDS**
OCTOBER 31



**BOOKER T.
JONES**
NOVEMBER 1 & 2



**AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH
ERIC JOHNSON**
NOVEMBER 3



**LISA FISCHER &
GRAND BATON**
NOVEMBER 5 & 6



SUZANNE VEGA
W/ TEDDY THOMPSON
NOVEMBER 7 & 8



**WILLY PORTER &
CARMEN NICKERSON**
NOVEMBER 12



**ATLANTA
RHYTHM SECTION**
NOVEMBER 13



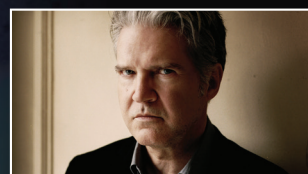
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ESCOVEDO**
NOVEMBER 15



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NOVEMBER 16



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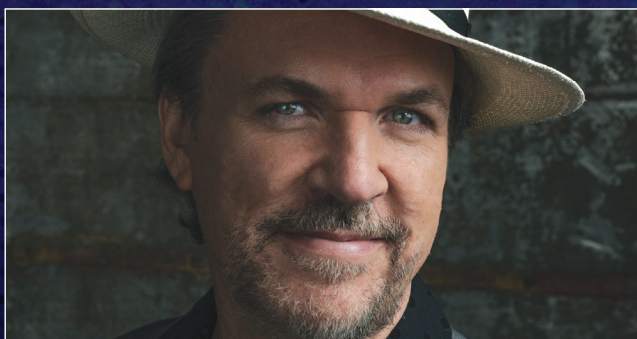
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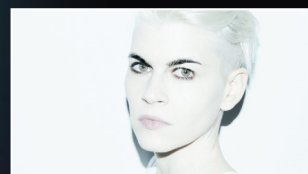
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GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE

THE HUMAN BLOCKADE

WHY THIS NICE MAN WANTS OUTSTATE MINNESOTA TO LOATHE US

By David Schimke

Last time Minnesota voted in a general election, Kurt Daudt had one hell of a week.

Republicans in the Minnesota House won back control of the chamber in a stunning upset. They did it using his playbook.

While dazed Democrats tried to figure out how they got their asses kicked, Daudt was voted Speaker of the House, arguably the second most powerful position in the state.

The 41-year-old accepted the post during a morning press conference on November 7, 2014. He looked like a handsome high school senior who'd just won a debate trophy. The newly pressed suit, the crisp white shirt and conservative tie, the blushing grin. You couldn't help but

like the guy.

That Daudt was being publicly acknowledged by his conservative peers had to be especially gratifying. A year earlier, a roomful of Republicans wondered out loud whether he was fit to lead at all.

The lack of confidence had little to do with Daudt's political bona fides. After all, he was a wunderkind from the one-street town of Crown who, after completing his first term in 2012, was dubbed "A Legislator to Watch" by Politics in Minnesota. Then, after being fast-tracked to minority leader in 2013, he made his bones thwarting a hike in the state minimum wage and blocked a DFL-sponsored, \$800 million capital investment bill.

But a few months after the session ended, he got arrested in Montana — and decided

not to tell anyone about it until a TV station unearthed the story.

It was a clown show tailor-made for TMZ. Daudt and a 24-year-old "buddy," Daniel Benjamin Weinzetl, drove to Big Sky Country to buy a vintage Ford Bronco from a guy named Brock Roy. Apparently, the gents disagreed on the condition of the vehicle and got in a shouting match; at some point, Weinzetl went back to Daudt's car to retrieve the representative's loaded handgun. (Daudt carries an A+ rating from the NRA.)

Weinzetl pointed the gun at Roy and his family, then he and Daudt left the scene. Montana cops caught up with them, pinned three felonies on Weinzetl, but eventually let Daudt go without charges.

"I don't know that necessarily it was

that big of a deal," Daudt told the press after the story broke. "But I don't always get to decide that, I guess."

Big deal or not, Daudt's failure to come clean from the outset motivated GOP activists to gather for a no confidence vote. Daudt, having found out about the meeting in the nick of time, showed up unannounced. Hat in hand, he convinced the group to not pass judgment.

A St. Paul lobbyist isn't surprised the former car salesman managed to talk his way out of trouble.

"He really is a talented, charismatic character. He's articulate. He's energetic. And, best of all, when he talks to you — whether you agree or disagree with what he's saying — he makes you feel like you're the youngest, prettiest person in the room."

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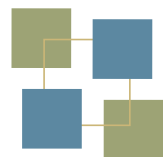
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As with George W. Bush, friends and foes agree Daudt is one of those characters with whom they can see themselves sharing a beer. He knows it. When chatting up voters, he focuses not on his ambitions, but on their wants and needs, challenges and fears. In press appearances he reliably talks about the need for common sense and open-mindedness. And, like Bush, he faithfully serves a party that demands unwavering fealty.

“Look, the guy is very, very conservative. And he serves at the pleasure of his caucus,” says a GOP strategist who works closely with House Republicans. “But we didn’t choose him to be a firebrand. We brought him on board to deliver a message that will resonate with a blue-collar guy in Anoka or a mom in the suburbs. One that will make them think, ‘Oh, he’s one of us. He’s a reasonable guy.’”

Daudt’s first year wielding the speaker’s gavel started out with a bang. His partisan peers came to value him as a tenacious negotiator. He exhibited a natural sense of when to give in, when to stand his ground, and how to unpack his positions on MPR and *Almanac*.

At one point early in the session, DFL Gov. Mark Dayton told a roomful of media jackals that he trusted Daudt more than Tom Bakk, his own party’s Senate major-

ity leader.

The 2015 session officially came to a disorganized, uninspired end for both parties when they put off crucial decisions for a special session. During that brief negotiation in June, Daudt took full advantage of the lingering uneasiness between Dayton and Bakk, managing to get more tax cuts than Senate Democrats would’ve liked, and ensuring lawmakers would go home to their districts without a sustainable transportation plan or a commitment to universal preschool, both priorities for the governor.

A tactical pattern began to emerge. When talking to the press, the speaker emphasized cooperation and common sense. On the House floor and behind closed doors, however, he and his caucus — dedicated to cutting taxes and slashing budgets — would play disciplined defense, targeting “liberal” legislation designed to

help children, families, and communities in need.

Daudt’s playbook was little more than a remedial recipe for gridlock, but Republicans were pleased to simply thwart the DFL, even if they could show no real triumphs of their own.

“He just did very well with the constraints he’s had to deal with,” says former House Republican David FitzSimmons, now chief of staff to Congressman Tom Emmer. “I just think he’s very deliberative. I

think that’s a lot of his strength.” Yet on the first day of the 2016 session, Daudt’s personal behavior again made for embarrassing headlines. Reporters learned that Daudt had been sued three times by credit card companies for over \$13,000 in unpaid bills.

He quickly settled the debts, which involved at least one creditor curiously dismissing its request for payment. Daudt

held a press conference, claiming the experience gave him a “real appreciation for the [financial] struggles Minnesotans have gone through.”

The common-man shtick came off more as disingenuous spin than empathetic contrition. Democrats gleefully noted that the self-righteous fiscal conservative, whose caucus loved to wag fingers at financial imprudence, couldn’t balance his own checkbook.

The speaker’s reputation took another hit at the end of the 2016 legislative session when, for the second year running, lawmakers pushed essential negotiations off until the last minute. They failed to approve \$1 billion in funding for bridges, roads, and transit. It was a colossal failure, even though both parties had previously said that passing a transportation-bonding bill was an election year goal.

Negotiations ultimately collapsed when Republicans refused to approve money for metro light rail, jeopardizing \$900 million in federal funds that would only be released if the state ponied up as well.

Leadership in both parties got hammered for bad time management. A few outstate columnists derided Dayton for his stubborn commitment to metro trains. But Daudt and his party also exposed the fundamental philosophy underlying their every block and tackle.

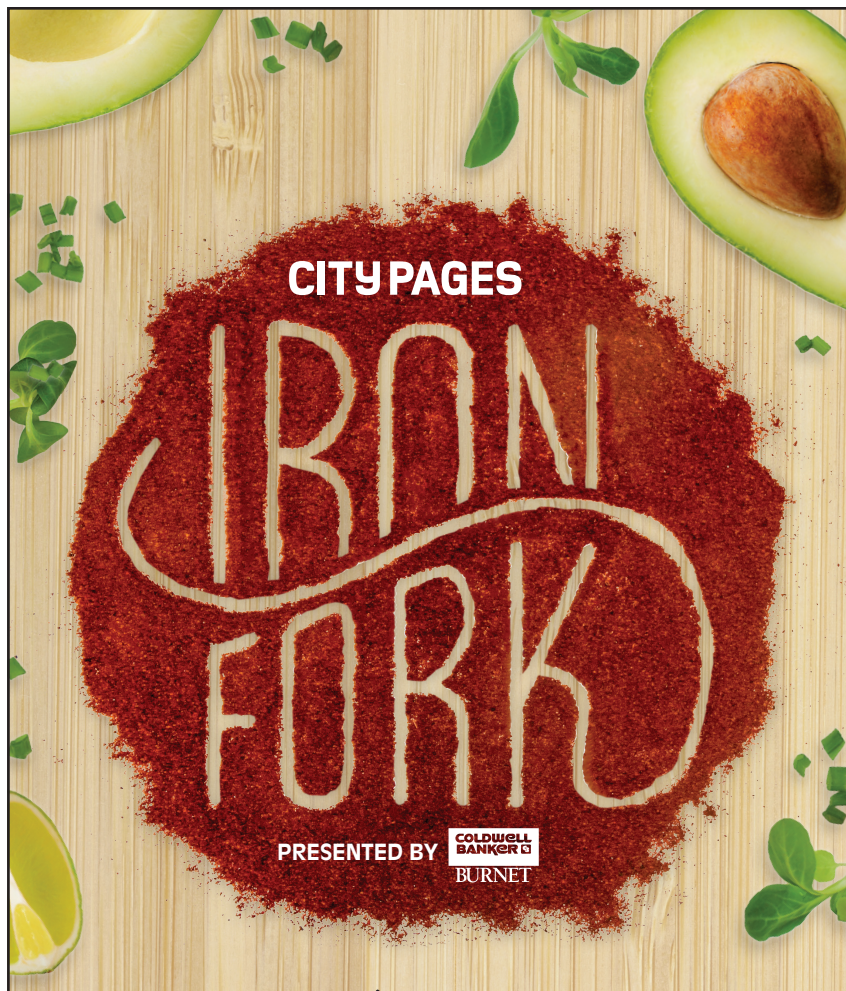
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GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE

They were very good at bringing government to a halt, but had few ideas of their own.

"Daudt is very good at negotiating things to a standstill. But he's yet to find common ground on anything that moves things ahead for Minnesota," says Dan McGrath of the advocacy group TakeAction Minnesota, which concentrates on economic issues that affect health, wealth, and race.

"In Minnesota, we like our Republicans reasonable-sounding. But the Republican base is anything but. They're just happy to make sure the government doesn't work."

It was a risky gambit. If conservatives lose the House next month, Daudt's highlight reel will be picked over for culpability. If they win, the victorious speaker will be a frontrunner for governor.

It's lunchtime and the speaker, along with a trio of young white male staffers, is waiting on the ripped-up fourth floor of the recently flooded State Office Building. Daudt stares ruminatively out a window overlooking the Capitol grounds.

It's a tad awkward, but not unfriendly. I can think of a dozen reasons the man in pressed jeans, blue blazer, tasseled shoes, and buffalo check dress shirt isn't feeling especially gregarious.

He's already spent a long morning fundraising and talking with media. After we're done, he'll leave for an afternoon of outstate campaigning and another fundraiser. Somehow, he got roped into talking with a metropolitan weekly that's never been in the business of lionizing legislators.

Still, the scene's taciturn tone surprises me a bit, if only because I've looked forward to feeling like the prettiest person in the room.

I was told I would have an hour, but Daudt suggests 20 minutes. I decide to table the standard profile BS and cut to the quick.

Can Republicans hold the House?

Daudt won't get cocky. The House has

Daudt's done his best to paint Dayton and his cronies as tax-and-spend liberals who care only for the metro.

flipped in four of the last five elections. But he feels like Republicans' central message — essentially, that Dayton is an out-of-touch elitist who needs a robust counterweight — is resonating.

While he's not sure how Donald Trump might play for the home team, Trump's candidacy suggests people are angry, which usually augers against the party "in control."

"Trump is doing incredibly well out in greater Minnesota. Now is that because he's 'doing well' or is it just that Hillary Clinton is so unpopular? I don't know. But we shouldn't ignore that Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump did incredibly well in the state. And they're outsiders, they're incredibly unconventional, and they're seen as anti-establishment. That says a lot about the mood of the country."

Minnesota's Grand Old Party was desperate for a different brand of outsider after the 2012 election. After pushing unpopular amendments to ban same-sex marriage and require voter I.D., they lost their House majority and faced a unified DFL government for the first time in 22 years.

Burdened with a shallow talent pool and bleeding money, party leaders wisely decided that Daudt, a man of low profile and little baggage, could help while they regrouped.

Daudt self-marketed as a small-town pragmatist who would fight to keep taxes low and subvert DFL shopping sprees.

Democrats achieved a fair share of their goals over the next two years, including an anti-bullying law and the legalization of same-sex marriage and medical marijuana. They were so successful, in fact, that they convinced themselves of their own invincibility.

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Republicans began to forge a counterstrike to win back the House. They recruited talented candidates in 10 winnable out-state races. Their mission: to convince farmers, small-town business owners, and beleaguered laborers that economic recovery had yet to crawl their way because Dayton and his tax-and-spend cronies cared only for the metro.

One ubiquitous attack ad focused on the construction of a new, \$90 million Minnesota Senate Office Building (it actually came in under budget at \$76 million).

Despite the dire need for additional space in St. Paul, Daudt reveled in pointing out that the sticker price and frivolous amenities — three-story glass facade! Meeting rooms with theater seating! — were proof that cosmopolitan extravagance had again trumped the real needs of rural folk.

After taking back the House, Daudt and his cohorts spent the early part of 2015 using the imagery as a catapult, promising that St. Paul was finally going to pay attention to outstate Minnesota. (Never mind that Senate Majority Leader Bakk hails from Cook, pop. 574.)

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) says it amounted to a “regional war,” which had little to do with economic realities or her party’s priorities.

Of Minnesota’s 87 counties, the seven forming the metro area generate 63 percent of the state’s revenues. Moreover, the DFL’s principal policies — health care, education, job training, and broadband access — don’t discriminate by address.

When I mention to Daudt that I’d just seen a Republican ad featuring a picture of the Senate Office Building, he waves me off. “That’s not getting much traction anymore,” he says. “The number-one issue out there now is health care and the costs of health insurance.”

Last month, the Minnesota Department of Commerce announced that about 5 percent of the citizenry — who shop for individual health insurance policies through MNsure, the state’s insurance

Daudt’s playbook was little more than a remedial recipe for gridlock, but Republicans were pleased.

coverage options, and pay hikes of between 55 to 77 percent for the privilege.

“It’s a real crisis,” Daudt says. “There are people who are really being hurt by this.”

A self-insured freelancer, I nod and ask whether this will finally get Democrats and Republicans to sing Kumbaya.

“We can work together, we absolutely can,” Daudt assures me. “But here’s what needs to happen: Democrats have to admit that there’s a problem. No Democrat yet, that I know of, has admitted that there’s a problem. I can’t believe that. I can’t believe that nobody is writing about that.”

It’s a confounding argument. The morning we spoke, both parties were already on full alert over the problem. Yet Daudt seems more interested in scoring political points than discussing solutions. He also conveniently omits the fact that Republicans have spent the past six years trying to sabotage the Affordable Care Act (better known as ObamaCare), while offering nary an alternative.

I ask what Daudt would do to solve the problem. He’s not sure — maybe shift people to a federal exchange — but points out that Minnesota had the best insurance in the country before the president mucked things up. If he were king for a day, he’d have us go back to the “way it was.”

This, of course, ignores the fact that when Obama was running against John McCain, both parties agreed the health care system was untenable. Premiums were skyrocketing at double-digit rates, and many of the working poor didn’t have insurance at all.

No matter. That was then. This is a different election.

A few days later, Republicans will propose eliminating MNsure and shifting people to a federal exchange. They also

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propose saving \$22 million by cutting taxes currently used for MNsure.

None of these fixes address the fundamental issue of rising health care costs. They're also tinted with an "I told you so" tone that's unhelpful and inaccurate.

It was the Democrats, after all, who convened a task force to fix MNsure last January. Republicans summarily rejected its proposals, ignoring the pending emergency. Daudt believes reconvening that group will only "smooth over" the problem, which is that health insurance reform is a failure.

As we go back and forth, Daudt is unerringly collegial. He clearly believes, as one DFL lobbyist notes, that he's the smartest guy in the room.

But he works hard not to condescend. He tends to try out various lines of argument, which comes across as unconsciously halting and purposefully evasive. He has yet to get his mojo working the way I've heard him do before a hot microphone.

Take economic development in the Minnesota countryside.

"To me, this stuff is really simple," he explains. "If Minnesotans make more money, the state is going to benefit from that. We're going to have more revenue coming in. So it's kind of a 'raise the level of the water and all boats float higher.'"

That's our philosophy."

And how will this be accomplished?

"Well, that's where it becomes a little bit more difficult, because the philosophy of the governor and the progressives — kind of the Minneapolis and St. Paul Democrats — is different than ours. They think that raising the wage to \$15 an hour is somehow going to help everybody. But what you're doing is eliminating jobs that are below \$15 an hour. You're not necessarily moving everybody up to \$15. For instance, grocery stores aren't going to have high school students stocking their shelves anymore."

What I'm looking for, of course, are specifics — a program, an initiative, an actual idea. This is not the stuff Daudt will provide. Within the art of contemporary Republicanism, his job is to tell you what won't work, then pivot to criticism of how the other side isn't making progress.

Daudt pontificates about red tape and needless bureaucracy, stuff that makes for great bumper stickers and 20-second sound bites. Who hasn't wanted to start a revolution while standing in line to get a license or a building permit? Still, it's not entirely clear how reducing paperwork will lead to an economic boon for Brainerd.

REP. ALICE HAUSMAN SAYS IT AMOUNTED TO A "REGIONAL WAR," WHICH HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH ECONOMIC REALITIES.

One of my goals was to discover what makes Daudt tick. While general consensus says the speaker is hard-working, amicable, and talented, there's less agreement on what he actually stands for.

As the clock winds down on our time together, Daudt is unwilling or unable to go down that road. So I shift to transportation. Specifically, Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT), which, if Republicans retain control of the House, promises to once again be a contentious, potentially crippling issue next year.

Given Daudt's rural strategy of divide and conquer, Republicans' objection to SWLRT makes sense, if only as a naked political tactic. The basic argument: While rural roads and bridges fall apart, and small towns suffer, Dayton plays with fantastic toys that no one will ride.

Most egregiously, outstate Minnesotans get stuck with the tab.

This too is a few shades short of the truth. Earlier this year, Dayton and the Senate proposed a metro-only sales tax to pay for light rail expansion. Another part of the plan provided long-term funding for roads, bridges, and greater Minnesota transit.

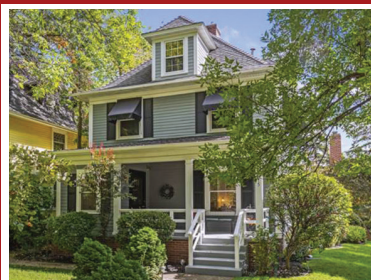
Writing in the Star Tribune, Dave Van Hattum, a lobbyist for Transit for Livable Communities, unmasked the hollowness of Daudt's play.

"How much state money was at stake in the debate over Southwest light-rail funding?" Van Hattum asked. "Essentially zero."

Groups like Hattum's speak for residents and businesspeople already losing time and money on the metro's maddeningly inefficient highway system.

When a city lacks 21st-century amenities, it's simply harder to recruit forward-thinking companies and employees to the state. Lower-income residents in second- and third-ring suburbs can't get

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to jobs across town. Suburban companies struggle to lure young professionals who live in the city.

It's soon to get worse. In the coming decade, another 10,000 people will share these roads.

The quest for relief is bipartisan, stretching from the employee breakroom to the executive suite.

Yet metro business leaders were vexed during the last legislative session. Faced with overwhelming data supporting rail, Daudt's caucus insisted on turning it into a purely partisan issue.

"Sadly, the Republicans' objection to light rail is about politics, not the future economic prosperity of the state," says Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "This doesn't boil down to a huge partisan issue in other states — Denver, Dallas, Salt Lake City. But here Daudt and the Republicans are using it to pit metro voters against rural voters."

Eden Prairie Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens, whose suburb sits on the planned Southwest line, is befuddled by the gamesmanship.

"We do a community survey every year. And the percentage of residents that are favoring light rail is hovering around 80 percent. Daudt has said that the communities along the Southwest rail line don't really support it. That's what he hears from his political supporters, I guess. But it's just not true. He's just not paying attention to the facts."

Daudt is unmoved, even when I note that Eden Prairie isn't exactly a haven for big-government liberals. His objections, frankly, are a little hard to follow — a combination of incoherent data points and denial.

Asked if he thinks rail could be economically beneficial, he says yes, but then complains about Dayton sneaking rail into the transportation bill at the 11th hour. He says the routes don't make sense, the trains won't reach those most in need.

When asked about the rising use of mass transit — the system had record ridership in 2015 — he invites me to look out the window.

"I can sit right here and watch that train go by and I can see that it's empty. Every day. Every day. It's kind of a joke around here. People will say, 'Oh, yeah, I was sitting at the stoplight watching the train go by, and there were 7 people on the train.' And it holds 280 people."

What he doesn't note is it's the middle of a workday and the legislature isn't in session.

"I want to see a comprehensive plan. And I don't want the tail wagging the dog. I want it to be driven by us looking at every option."

Mayor Tyra-Lukens is nonplussed: "The Met Council has exhaustively studied this issue. For any legislator to say they don't have enough information is disingenuous. Either they're saying that because you don't want to make a decision, or they're not doing their job."

After talking for nearly 25 minutes, the speaker wants to wrap it up. I ask what attracted him to public service in the first place.

"If you want to talk a little bit more about me, we can push things five minutes or something," he says with a congenial chuckle, easing back into his chair.

The mood shifts. Daudt becomes noticeably calmer, less combative, more in command of his material. His answers have just the right mixture of spontaneity, reflection, and polish, which makes sense. I've read most of them in one form or another in profiles written over the past six years.

"I'm just the kind of person and personality that when I get into something, I just throw myself into it — whether it be at my church [Missouri Synod Lutheran], my jobs, anything," he says.

We talk about the responsibility of being speaker and chat about his relationship with Dayton, which has gotten a bit "volatile" as of late.

"The governor too often gets into the mudslinging and name-calling. My style is, I don't like that. I don't think Minnesotans like that. I don't think people like it. So I stay away from that as much as I can."

I ask him what he loves most about the job.

"I always describe legislating like golf. You go out on the golf course and you hit terrible shots, and you dribble it down the fairway and into the water and onto the sand most of the day," he says.

"And then a constituent comes in and they want you to do something or fix something, and you get to help somebody. You get to make a real difference in someone's life. It doesn't happen often enough, but when it does happen it's the fuel that keeps you going. It's that one good shot. It's what gets you coming back for more."

It's true, I find myself thinking. If you don't get to know him well, it's hard not to like the guy. ☐

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THE KITCHEN GRIFTER

Nicholas Steffen's tattoos tell the tale of restaurants that hired him. Their owners tell a different story.

BY MECCA BOS

Nicholas Steffen has a lot of tattoos. In photos on his Facebook feeds — Steffen has three, two of them with the secondary nickname “Skinny Hungry Man” — and Instagram account, Steffen proudly displays a strong affinity for fast food, Doritos, and his ink, a lot of which identifies him as a Twin Cities local.

There's “Twin Cities” on one side of his neck. There's a row of skyscrapers going around his neck, and beneath that, the famous Sculpture Garden Spoon and Cherry. And there, in the stem of the spoon, reads the word: “Travail.”

That's the one that caught Eddie Wu's eye.

Wu, owner of Cook St. Paul, hired Steffen to work in his kitchen as he staffed up before launch in 2014. It was a chaotic time for Wu, who'd never opened a restaurant before, and he hired a few employees who were open about their criminal records.

They weren't the ones he'd come to regret.

Wu says he's gone “crazy investigative journalist” on Steffen for the past two years, trying to learn more about his onetime hire. A couple weeks ago, he noticed the photo of this “Travail” tattoo of Steffen's.

Wu called Mike Brown, owner of Robinsdale's esteemed Travail restaurant, and the two started matching stories.

At Cook St. Paul, Steffen started out as a model employee. “He was a really good dishwasher,” Wu says.

And sort of a friend. Steffen took Wu's father-in-law, a huge hockey fan, to Minnesota Wild games. Wu says Steffen was “heavy” about wanting to get in touch with his Korean roots.

But about three weeks into the restaurant being open, Wu noticed that a night deposit went missing. He chalked

it up to the chaos of opening.

Later, Wu would find online evidence of a Mall of America shopping spree Steffen took the very next day. Wu also says Steffen posted selfies flaunting stacks of cash.

One night, Steffen came into the restaurant when he wasn't working. He left just as abruptly as he came, without saying goodbye. His sudden presence and disappearance were both unusual. When Wu started his closing routine, he realized that his laptop was gone. He questioned the two employees who were working that night, both of whom had criminal records.

“They had all the right answers,” Wu says.

He figured it had to be Steffen. Wu called him in to work a shift that he wasn't scheduled for. When finally Steffen arrived, late, Wu questioned him. He had all the wrong answers. Wu fired Steffen, called the cops, and filed a report. Steffen was never arrested or charged.

Since then, Wu has built up a fat file on his ex-employee. So has the state of Minnesota. Turns out, the employee who didn't mention a criminal record had an

extensive one, usually trafficking in the art of deception to take unsuspecting, trusting victims of their cash and stuff.

In 2012, he met a 65-year-old man at a suburban Ramada hotel after the man responded to a Craigslist ad. Steffen sold \$1,500 worth of Best Buy Gift Cards for \$900. The man later discovered they had a combined balance of nearly zero.

In 2014, Steffen again used Craigslist to advertise a St. Paul apartment for rent. He provided a tour to a woman interested in moving in, who noticed the place was clearly occupied. Steffen explained he was subletting, and his other tenants would be moving out soon. The victim inked a \$1,250 check on the spot. But when she returned to move into her new home, she discovered that it had not in fact been vacated, and was occupied by two

women. One of them told the victim that she had probably been swindled by her boyfriend: Nicholas Steffen.

Steffen, 31, has faced criminal charges on 14 occasions, and been convicted of eight felonies.

Wu claims Steffen also swindled Wu's own father-in-law, bilking him out of \$400 in exchange for All-Star Game tickets that never materialized.

Doug Flicker is one of the Twin Cities' finest chefs, having owned Piccolo, a fine-dining restaurant with national acclaim, for almost seven years. Flicker remembers hiring Steffen as a dishwasher about five years ago.

“[Steffen] said he was in culinary school,” Flicker recalls, “but had to quit so he could take care of his sick grandmother. So it was like, ‘Oh, what a sweet

boy.”

Steffen worked diligently at Piccolo for eight or nine months, but almost immediately, things started going missing, Flicker says. An iPhone, a laptop, checks, a couple credit cards. Flicker intuited that it was probably Steffen, but he wasn't willing to point fingers. “You don't want

to blame the dishwasher because he's the dishwasher, you know? It was more like, ‘Did I have \$50 in my pocket or not?’”

By the time Flicker figured out what was happening, Steffen was long gone. He had quit, citing a serious illness.

Wu heard second-hand that, in addition to his other ink, Steffen has been seen with a “Piccolo” tat. Flicker's response: “Sweet!” (Wu, for his part, says he's disappointed Cook St. Paul didn't make Steffen's tattoo list — that



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Steffen took Wu's father-in-law, a huge hockey fan, to Minnesota Wild games.

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Choose from COLT, Basic Bob, Olive, Black Bean, Firehouse 21, Turkey, Mushroom & Swiss, or Matt's Chili.
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RESTAURANT WEEK

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OCTOBER 28TH
7PM-CLOSE**

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Steffen worked at Cook St. Paul when it first launched.

he knows of.)

On August 23, a teller at Citizens Bank in Robbinsdale called the Robbinsdale Police Department. A man was trying to cash a check from the business account of Travail, just down the block, but the teller noticed the handwriting didn't match previous checks she'd seen. She called Travail to confirm the check was legit.

While she was on the phone, the guy decided not to wait around, according to a police incident report, and made for the door. Local police contacted Brown, the Travail owner.

Brown told them he'd hired Nicholas Steffen to work at his restaurant, but fired him in mid-August, after a chef informed him of Steffen's modus operandi: He was a hard worker who would "befriend you and once you got comfortable with him, he would then steal from you," according to the report.

Brown reported that someone had tripped the restaurant's alarm system early on August 23, the same day as the aborted check-cashing. Brown later

discovered a laptop was missing. So were three business checks; the number of one matched the check that the bank teller called the restaurant about. Brown later identified Steffen as appearing on the bank's surveillance tape alongside an accomplice. (Brown declined to be interviewed for this story, citing a pending investigation.)

According to the St. Paul Police Department, Steffen was hired on at the Uptowner on Grand Avenue on September 9 of this year as a dishwasher. By September 11, the Uptowner had called the police to report the theft of a combined \$700 in cash from two separate employees' purses; another employee had noticed Steffen going

into an area where employees kept their personal belongings. According to a police report, Steffen admitted to stealing the money.

Then he fled. The money was never recovered.

On October 3, while City Pages was researching this story, Steffen was picked up for violating probation stemming from his December 2014 conviction for the apartment rental bait-and-switch. (Steffen had been skipping mandatory drug tests during much of 2015.) The violation landed him a 14-month stint in prison; pending

charges from any of his string of alleged restaurant thefts have not been filed.

Says Flicker: "He's a really good thief. I hate to say that I have a level of respect for that kind of thing, but he's fucking good."

Steffen's pulled off his best schemes in person. He's less successful online. He now has a fundly.com crowdsourcing account to help raise \$42,000 for dental work. He's raised 0 percent of his goal. **CF**

"You don't want to blame the dishwasher because he's the dishwasher, you know?"

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OCT 29

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WITH CATALYST QUARTET
OCT 30

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*Always...
Patmy Cline*

By Ted Swindley

Oct. 14 - 30

Classic Country

Contemporary Country

Chris Hawkey
Nov. 4



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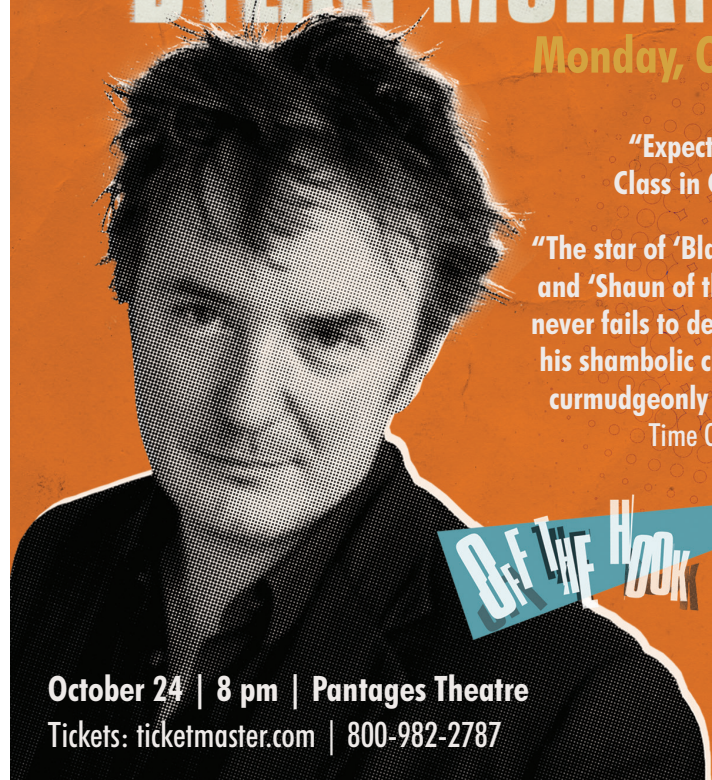
DYLAN MORAN

Monday, Oct. 24

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never fails to deliver with
his shambolic charm and
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October 24 | 8 pm | Pantages Theatre

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A LIST

FRIDAY Check art out like a book at MALL **P. 29**

SATURDAY Sample brew in Northeast **P. 30**

SUNDAY Try local cheese in the Food Building **P. 32**

WEDNESDAY 10.19

COMEDY

CHAD DANIELS

ACME COMEDY CO.

"It's so hard to be a parent, especially when you're in public and your kids have a meltdown," says comedian Chad Daniels. "Everyone around you expects you to shut them up by any means necessary. You guys, you know that if you give in you're going to have to deal with that shit for the rest of their lives when they're pricks, right?" Nowadays, whenever Daniels sees a twentysomething being an a-hole, he wonders, "How many times did his parents just give in?" On Daniels' home front, he's just moved into a new house. Like fellow comic Wendy Liebman, he also read *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*. "You put everything in a pile in the middle of the room it belongs in," Daniels explains, "and if you haven't used it in a year or it doesn't bring you joy, get rid of it. You'd think a depressed person would have zero stuff left. It's a slippery slope once you start doing it." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

FESTIVAL/FILM

TWIN CITIES FILM FEST

KERASOTES SHOWPLACE
ICON THEATRE AT WEST END

For the next 11 days, the Twin Cities Film Fest will walk celebrities down the red carpet, host movie-making workshops, and screen over 100 films. The schedule includes comedies, like Parker Posey's *The Architect*; dramas with critical buzz, such as *Moonlight*; kids' fare like *Trolls*; and insightful documentaries such as *My Scientology Movie* and *The Trans List*. Celebs in attendance for Q&A sessions include Laverne Cox (*Free CeCe*, *The Trans List*) and Remy Auberjonois (director of the PTSD drama *Blood Stripe*, which opens the festival). Don't be surprised if you find some of these flicks on awards lists come Oscar time; last year *Brooklyn* and *Room* took top honors at this festival. For full

schedule and more information, visit twincitiesfilmfest.org. \$12 per screening; \$50 for five-pack pass. 1625 W. End Blvd., St. Louis Park; 612-568-0375. **Through October 29** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THURSDAY 10.20

DANCE/FESTIVAL

TWIN CITIES TAP FESTIVAL

THE COWLES CENTER

Everything you want to know about percussive dance and more will be on view this weekend as local and national artists and youth tappers lay down an infinite variety of rhythms and styles. Thursday's TCTF Showcase features the hot kids from Keane Sense of Rhythm, Minnesota TAP, and the stage debut of Elite Tap Feet, teen tappers from around Minnesota. Two TCTF Master Concerts spotlight national tap icons Brenda Bufalino, Derick Grant, and Jumaane Taylor alongside Minnesota tap artists Cathy Wind, Nick Bowman, and Bruce DeMorrow. Minnesota companies including the Flying Foot Forum, Kaleena Miller Dance, Rhythmic Circus, and Buckets and Tap Shoes join the celebration, demonstrating the diverse percussive panache afoot in the Twin Towns. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. \$15-\$30. 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-206-3636.

Through Saturday —LINDA SHAPIRO

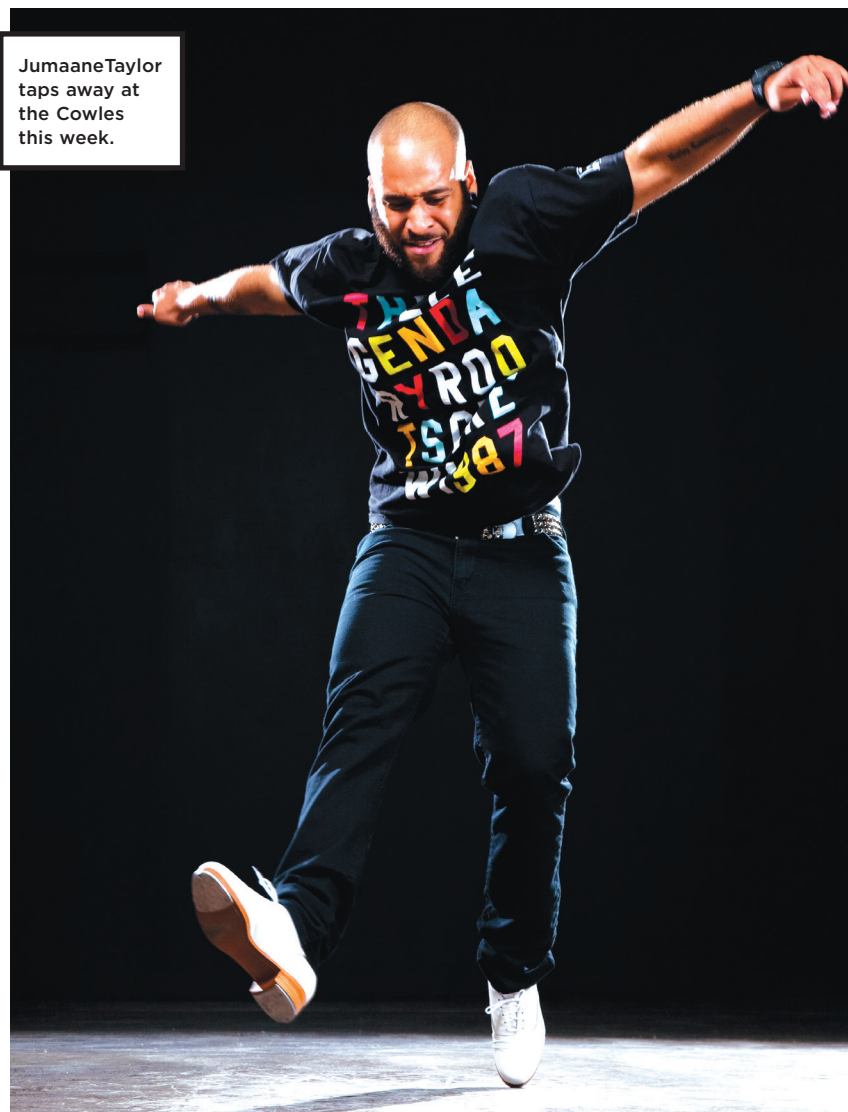
ART/PARTY

THIRD THURSDAY: ARTOBERFEST

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

This installment of Third Thursday is all about the art of beer and beer-related art. During this hopping party, guests will be invited to tour the museum's stein collection and take a look at other breweriana, as well as sample beer varieties inspired by art, made by locals like Wabasha Brewing Company, Fair State Brewing Cooperative, Bad Weather Brewing Company, and Fulton Beer. Adding a little oompa to your evening will be the World's Most Dangerous Polka Band, along with plenty of beer-themed crafts. 6 to 9 p.m. Free.

Jumaane Taylor taps away at the Cowles this week.



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3000. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

DANCE

PAVEL ZUŠTIK

WALKER ART CENTER

Pavel Zuštiak and his Palissimo Company aim to provide insight into the human condition through work that merges dance, live music, and visual art. The Midwest premiere of *Custodians of Beauty* raises the question: Where do we find beauty today, and does it need our defense?

Zuštiak's work embraces emotional extremes that collide and elide in startling images. Through an Eastern European dance-theater aesthetic, he deploys the human body as sculpture, emotional trigger, and political symbol. If that sounds a bit conceptual, rest assured there is plenty of juicy content to be had. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. \$22. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600.

Through Saturday —LINDA SHAPIRO

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 ►



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19



THE DEAN WEEN GROUP
MEAT PUPPETS
\$20/\$25 DOS/7:30PM/18+

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20



DEERHUNTER
ALDOUS HARDING
JOCK GANG
\$20/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21



CLUTCH
93X PRESENTS
PSYCHIC WARFARE
WORLD TOUR 2016
ZAKK SABBATH
KYNG
\$29/\$34/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22



GROUPOLOVE
THE BIG MESS TOUR
MUNA
DILLY DALLY
\$26/7PM/18+

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23



POST MALONE
GO 95.3 PRESENTS
THE HOLLYWOOD DREAMS TOUR
JAZZ CARTIER
LARRY JUNE
HOSTED BY FKI 1ST
\$26/6PM/ALL AGES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25



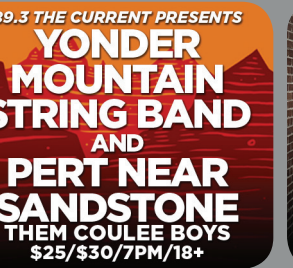
MAC MILLER
GO 95.3 PRESENTS
THE DIVINE FEMININE TOUR
SOULECTION FEAT. LAKIM
SET BY CLOCKWORKDJ
\$35/7PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27



ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
89.3 THE CURRENT
AND CITY PAGES PRESENT
DIANE COFFEE
\$25/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28



YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND AND PERT NEAR SANDSTONE
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THEM COULEE BOYS
\$25/\$30/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29



LUCERO
CORY BRANAN
\$22/8PM/18+

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30



PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT
AN EVENING WITH
PERFORMING "SUBSTANCE"
- JOY DIVISION & NEW ORDER
DJ JAKE RUDH (OF TRANSMISSION)
\$25/7PM/18+

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31



FIRST AVENUE'S HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST
OVER \$1000 IN CASH PRIZES
\$10/\$15 DOS/\$20 DOOR
7:30PM/18+

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1



GOOD CHARLOTTE AND THE STORY SO FAR
FOUR YEAR STRONG
BIG JESUS
\$29.50/5PM/ALL AGES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2



THE NAKED AND FAMOUS
GO 96.3 PRESENTS
XYLO
THE CHAIN GANG OF 1974
\$27.50/\$95 VIP/7PM/18+

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3



WATSKY X INFINITY TOUR
WITT LOWRY
DAYE JACK
CHUKWUDI HODGE
\$20/\$55 VIP/6PM/ALL AGES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4



MAJID JORDAN
GO 95.3 PRESENTS
DJ TJ
\$25.25/\$28/7PM/ALL AGES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5



BLACKBERRY SMOKE, LIKE AN ARROW TOUR
LUKE COMBS
\$30/8PM/18+

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6



JAI WOLF
JERRY FOLK
KHAI
\$16/\$20/7:30PM/18+

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7



NICOLAS JAAR LIVE
\$20/\$25/7:30PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9



LECRAE THE DESTINATION TOUR
AMBRE
\$29.50/\$32.50/6PM/ALL AGES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10



REBUTION
HIRIE
\$22.50/\$25/8PM/18+

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11



COMMUNIST DAUGHTER
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
RECORD RELEASE SHOW
ALPHA CONSUMER
FRAEA
CATBATH
\$10/\$12/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12



HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES
CABINET
GINSTRINGS
\$15/8PM/18+

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18



JAMES VINCENT MCMORROW
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
ALLAN RAYMAN
\$20/\$22/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19



STRFKR
GIGAMESH
PSYCHIC TWIN
\$20/8PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23



THE IKE REILLY ASSASSINATION
THE HONEYDOGS
RICH MATTSON AND THE NORTHSTARS
\$16/\$66 VIP/7PM/18+

FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON PERFORMERS AND COMPLETE SHOW LISTINGS VISIT FIRST-AVENUE.COM
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FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

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11/26 THE CACTUS BLOSSOMS w/ NICOLE ATKINS 18+
12/01 JJ GREY & MOFRO w/ PARKER MILLSAP 18+
12/02 JIMI HENDRIX REMEMBERED - THE 24TH ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO JIMI HENDRIX, BAND OF GYPSIES & BEYOND w/ JESSE JOHNSON, SONNY THOMPSON, MICHAEL BLAND 18+
12/03 MASON JENNINGS w/ DUSTY HEART 18+
12/08 THE 37TH ANNUAL JOHN LENNON TRIBUTE FT. CURTISS A WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS 18+
12/10 LIZZO w/ DJ SOPHIA ERIS, DIZZY FAE 18+
12/16 SOUL ASYLUM w/ MCNASTY BRASS BAND 18+
12/29 THE JAYHAWKS 18+
1/14 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANIS - A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE & MUSIC OF JANIS JOPLIN: 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 18+
1/15 WRESTLEPALOOZA IX 18+
1/20 THE DEVIL MAKES THREE 18+
2/26 AARON LEWIS - THE SINNER TOUR 18+
3/10 MAC SABBATH AND METALACHI - THE 2017 MOCKSTROCITY TOUR w/ OKILLY DOKILLY, METALLAGHER 18+
3/18 PASSENGER ALL AGES
4/17 THE ZOMBIES - 'ODESSEY AND ORACLE' 50TH ANNIVERSARY 18+

7TH ST ENTRY

- 10/19 BUSDRIVER - 'SUPERCARE' TOUR w/ METASOTA, ANDRE MARIETTE 18+
10/20 DAN ANDRIANO IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM w/ JESSE SWAN THORSON 18+
10/21 MUTTS w/ THE CARNEGIES 18+
10/22 THE GEEK X VRV 18+
10/23 SALES w/ STRANGE RELATIONS 18+
10/24 SUNFLOWER BEAN w/ THE LEMON TWIGS, LAZY SCORSESE 18+
10/25 FLOCK OF DIMES w/ LITTLE SCREAM, YOUR FRIEND 18+
10/26 FRUIT BATS w/ COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS 18+
10/27 PWR BTM w/ BELLOWES, LISA PRANK 18+
10/28 HEYDAY: 35 YEARS OF MUSIC IN MINNEAPOLIS - THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF DANIEL CORRIGAN BOOK RELEASE 18+
10/29 THE BLIND SHAKE - 'CELEBRATE YOUR WORTH' RECORD RELEASE SHOW w/ FURY THINGS, TONGUE PARTY 18+
10/30 HONEYBLOOD w/ JAY SOM, MONICA LAPLANTE 18+

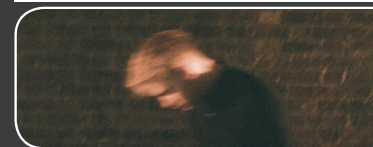
TURF CLUB

- 10/19 SHONEN KNIFE w/ CATBATH, THE TOXENES 21+
10/20 JAMESTOWN REVIVAL w/ JONNY FRITZ 21+
10/21 TEMPLES w/ VINYL WILLIAMS 21+
10/22 TUNES 'N TOONS BRUNCH: FUNK/AFROBEAT EDITION ft. WORLDWIDE DISCOTHEQUE ALL AGES
10/22 CASS MCCOMBS BAND w/ DELICATE STEVE 21+
10/23 JAZZ BRUNCH ft. JAMES BUCKLEY TRIO ALL AGES
10/23 TALL HEIGHTS 21+
10/24 THE FELICE BROTHERS w/ SHELBY EARL 21+
10/28 THE BOXER REBELLION w/ HEY ANNA, RY COX 21+
10/29 ARCWELDER w/ RINGOUT!, NEW AGE HEALERS 21+
10/30 DAVID RAMIREZ - BOOTLEG TOUR (LIVE ALBUM RECORDING) 21+
10/31 SOLID GOLD AND AERO FLYNN w/ FORT WILSON RIOT 21+
11/02 JOE MANDE - AUTUMN SIXTEEN TOUR 21+
11/03 SPCO AT TURF CLUB - MENDELSSOHN'S STRING OCTET 21+
11/05 HISS GOLDEN MESSENGER w/ TIFT MERRITT 21+

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UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
MURA MASA
w/ MICHL
at FINE LINE
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY
8PM/18+



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
TEENAGE FANCLUB
w/ SAM EVIAN
at FINE LINE
\$20/8PM/18+



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
HAYDEN JAMES
'JUST A LOVER' NORTH AMERICAN TOUR
w/ DENA AMY
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$15/\$18/8PM/18+



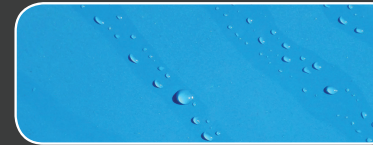
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24
THE STRUMBELLAS
w/ FOREIGN AIR
at FINE LINE
\$15/\$20/\$30 RESERVED BALCONY
7PM/18+



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25
TRASH TALK
w/ ANTWON, BLACK NOISE
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$15/5PM/ALL AGES



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27
BAD SUNS
w/ COIN
at FINE LINE
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY
7PM/18+



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27
WET
w/ DEMO TAPED
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$16/7PM/18+



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
BEACH SLANG (ACOUSTIC) AND BLEACHED
w/ HUNNY
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$16/8PM/18+

10/29 NEON INDIAN AND CLASSIXX w/ ALEX FRANKEL, HARRIET BROWN at Fine Line

10/29 JOSEPH w/ WILLIAM WILD at The Cedar

10/30 TOMMY STINSON'S COWBOYS IN THE CAMPFIRE w/ JOHN SWARDSON at Triple Rock

11/01 SCREAMING FEMALES w/ MOOR MOTHER, EPIC DOWNTIME at Triple Rock

11/06 CRIMINAL: A PODCAST at The Cedar

11/08 NIYKEE HEATON: CENTERFOLD TOUR at Fine Line

11/09 K.FLAY w/ NIGHTLY at Fine Line

11/10 CRX w/ STREETS OF LAREDO, THE GLOOMIES at Triple Rock

11/11 MURDER BY DEATH w/ LAURA STEVENSON at Fine Line

11/12 BAND OF HORSES w/ WILD BELLE at State Theatre

11/12 RUFUS DU SOL w/ ROLAND TINGS, ATLAS BOUND at Fine Line

11/13 SNAKEHIPS w/ CHARLES MURDOCH at Fine Line

11/13 LEMAITRE w/ CHET PORTER, COUCHERON at Triple Rock

11/18 THE SOUNDS - PERFORMING 'DYING TO SAY THIS TO YOU' TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS w/ ZIPPER CLUB, MY JERUSALEM at Fine Line

11/20 SNOW THA PRODUCT at Fine Line

11/23 ANIMALS AS LEADERS - THE MADNESS OF MANY TOUR w/ INTERVALS, PLINI at Fine Line

THIS FRIDAY!

SKYWAY THEATRE & 89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS

M83.

W/ SPECIAL GUESTS
DJ JAKE RUDH OF TRANSMISSION AND 89.3 THE CURRENT

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89.3 the current

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7PM

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MINNEAPOLIS

OCTOBER 22, 2016 • 8:00pm / 7:00pm doors
THE CEDAR 416 Cedar Avenue S, Minneapolis
TICKETS: \$20 advance / \$25 at the door (Free with Augsburg ID)
thecedar.org/midnimo

MANKATO

OCTOBER 28, 2016 • 8:00pm / 7:00pm doors
KATO BALLROOM 200 Chestnut Street, Mankato
TICKETS: \$10 advance / \$15 at the door (Free with student ID)
thecedar.org/midnimo

ST. CLOUD

NOVEMBER 4, 2016 • 7:30pm / 7:00pm doors
PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
913 West Germain Street, St. Cloud
TICKETS: \$20 advance / \$25 at the door (Free with student ID)
Call 320-259-5463 or order online at paramountarts.org or thecedar.org/midnimo

Midnimo
means unity

WAAAYAHHA Cusub New Era

SUPPORT FOR MIDNIMO IS PROVIDED BY

Association of Performing Arts Presenters

This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Building Bridges: Arts Culture and Identity, a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. This work is supported by a Building Demand for the Arts Implementation grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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The presentation of Waaayaha Cusub is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Minnesota State Arts Board and the Crane Group.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY MARBROOK FOUNDATION

Midnimo is a program of **THE CEDAR** and **AUGSBURG COLLEGE**

Falls Abdi Mohamed is unable to join the residency in Minnesota.
For more information: thecedar.org/midnimo.

ART/GALLERY

POSTERS FOR PARKS 2016

LAKES & LEGENDS BREWING COMPANY

Score a cool poster for your wall Thursday at this casual benefit party. More than 30 local artists have made Minnesota parks their muse and created original works that will be for sale and on display. Some results are edgy, others are whimsical, and others are downright beautiful. Whether your decor predilections call for bold colors or muted pastels, something here is sure to intrigue you. Participating artists include Kyle Wyatt, Angel Bomb, Cody Petts, and Jeffrey K. Johnson of Hamilton Ink Spot. Posters cost \$40 each. Half of the proceeds from each sale will benefit the artist, while the other half will go toward LoveMplsParks.org and People for Parks, nonprofit volunteers who donate their time to keep our parks awesome. Beer from Lakes & Legends and eats from the MidNord Empanada Truck will be plentiful. 6 to 10 p.m. Free. 1368 Lasalle Ave., Minneapolis; 612-999-6020. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



SARAH HUENER

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

DANCE

VITAL MATTERS

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Minneapolis' experimental dance scene explodes this weekend with four days of workshops, artist talks, and performances celebrating the myriad ways in which people dance and otherwise express themselves. The usual suspects are all wonderfully here — Body Cartography, Justin Jones, Paige Tighe, Anna Marie Shogren — as well as the mothers of the movement, HIJACK. But so are the ballet-trained Katelyn Skelley, Annicha Arts' Pramila Vasudevan, and Young Dance. The experimental dance boom is in full force here. Live it and love it. Watch and learn. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$18-\$24; \$45-\$60 packages available. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811.

Through Sunday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

COMEDY

ROCKY LAPORTE

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Rocky LaPorte was supposed to be on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* back on September 23. "About four days before I was supposed to be on, I got bumped," he explains. "They told me they were putting on the girl that won *America's Got Talent*. The one that plays the ukulele." LaPorte takes it all in stride, though. "This is the only business that could happen in," he chuckles, adding, "the first time I auditioned for *Last Comic Standing*, I lost to a stripper. The next year, I lost to a guy in a gorilla suit." As of

press time, LaPorte's appearance on the NBC chat show was being rescheduled for sometime in October. He's been on the program before, and much of his set, which features a lot of quick jokes, works well in that format. "The first time I did *The Tonight Show* they said they wanted a laugh every so many seconds," he recalls. "I think on most TV shows they want you to pick up the pace more and have shorter jokes and less stories." Which is pretty much the way comedy audiences as a whole are moving, it seems. "You've got to bring the funny quick or people start looking at their phones." 18+; 21+ later shows. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$15-\$22. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. Through Sunday —P.F. WILSON

FRIDAY 10.21

ART

MINNEAPOLIS ART LENDING LIBRARY FALL LENDING EVENT

BRYANT SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Unless you are hitting up a college poster sale, art is often a pricey investment. At the Minneapolis Art Lending Library (MALL), the art is free. At each event, guests are invited to peruse the 100-plus pieces, which include paintings, photography, prints, and sculptures. See something you like? Check it out like a library book and enjoy it in your

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ►

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LUCY LUXE

[CYBRPUNK]

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VIVA LA BERG

GLOOMING

COCKLE MONSTER

FUNTCASE

DELTA HEAVY

LUCY LUXE

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PLUS MANY, MANY MORE!

FRIDAY 10/28
\$25 / 7PM / 18+

SATURDAY 10/29
\$35 / 7PM / 18+

MONDAY 10/31
\$35 / 7PM / 18+

THREE NIGHT TICKET PACKAGE STARTING AT \$75

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THURSDAY • 10/20

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SATURDAY • 10/22

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MONDAY • 10/24

ELI YOUNG BAND

SATURDAY • 10/22

MAYHEM

TERRORFEST PREPARTY

THURSDAY • 10/27

YELAWOLF

TUESDAY • 11/1

LUPE FIASCO

FRIDAY • 11/4

SLANDER 828 NGHTMRE

FRIDAY • 11/11

SOMO

THURSDAY • 11/17

OUTTA THIS WORLD TOUR

FIGURE X PROTOTYPE

SATURDAY • 11/19

LOUIS THE CHILD

WEDNESDAY • 11/23

APASHE

SATURDAY • 11/26

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB

SATURDAY • 11/26

THE MOTET

WEDNESDAY • 12/28

TICKETS: SKYWAYTHEATRE.COM • 612-333-6100 • 711 HENNEPIN AVE, MPLS

A-LIST



Intermedia Arts celebrates the Native voice.

COURTESY OF INTERMEDIA ARTS

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

home or workplace for three months. You'll also be welcome to make art at this event, as Camille Erickson will be working on pieces for the Create and Advocate postcard project. For more info, visit www.artlending.org. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. 3101 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-370-4907. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

DANCE SKIN(S)

INTERMEDIA ARTS

Honoring the sovereignty of Native Americans is a long and arduous process that occurs in fits and starts. But there's no shortage of reminders nationally or regionally of the myriad ways in which First Peoples advocate for their agency through artistic creativity and innovation. Case in point: *Skin(s)*. The multi-platform project includes a dance work by Rosy Simas; an exhibition curated by Heid E. Erdrich with works by Carolyn Lee Anderson, Julie Buffalohead, Andrea Carlson, Wakemup, Dyani White Hawk, and others; a film by Erdrich and Elizabeth Day that celebrates urban Native identity; and a web media project that launched October 1. Perspectives from Dakota, Ojibwe, Ponca, Lakota, Navajo, and other indigenous nations are represented here. 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$18 at the door. 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-4444.

Through Sunday — CAMILLE LEFEVRE

SATURDAY 10.22

DANCE

TEST PILOT: A DANCE OPERA

O'SHAUGHNESSY AUDITORIUM

The Wright Brothers' inaugural flight is always presented as a heroic male endeavor. But choreographer and dancer Penelope Freeh, in collaboration with composer Jocelyn Hagen, put

women front and center in this version of the tale. Told from the perspective of the Wrights' sister, Katharine, and interlaced with Hagen and Freeh's personal stories of creativity and innovation, the piece takes flight as its abstract narrative inventively celebrates women and artistry. The work includes six singers, video, and veteran dancers Stephanie Fellner, Nic Lincoln, and Cory Goei. The brothers' history-making adventure is still here, but it's wrapped in a formidable artistic intelligence and aesthetic that tells the tale anew. 7:30 p.m. \$19-\$27. 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul; 651-690-6700. —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

BENEFIT/COMEDY

STAND UP FOR HOPE

MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL LIBRARY

Fundraising events are important. Now that we've said that, let's all agree that many are boring and stuffy. That's why the Stand Up for Hope fundraiser to benefit the Liz Logelin Foundation, an organization that provides emotional and financial support to widows and widowers with young families, is unique. The event is stacked with some of the best local comedians, including Tommy Thompson, Brandi Brown, and Jon Santos, plus headliner Dan Mintz, the voice of Tina Belcher from *Bob's Burgers*. The night will be hosted by *Breaking the News* co-anchor and skinny jeans enthusiast Jana Shortal (no word on what she'll be wearing just yet), and there will be appetizers, drinks, and raffle prizes. Tickets for this event are a little pricey, but all proceeds benefit the foundation, making this a much better way to spend money than what you might otherwise be doing on a Saturday night. 6:30 p.m. \$80-\$250. 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-543-8000. —PATRICK STRAIT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 ►



THURSDAY
10.27.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$5 —
Classic Country and
Classic Rock



FRIDAY
10.28.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$15 —
Rockabilly,
country, hillbilly
swing



SATURDAY
10.29.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$5 —
Four piece Twin
Cities band with
roots in blues,
country, & rock

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

ALL SHOWS START AT 9PM UNLESS
OTHERWISE NOTED
WWW.LEESLIQUORLOUNGE.COM

\$5 DANCE LESSONS
START AT 8PM
19
**THE RIVERSIDE
SWING BAND**
SHANNON & BILLS ROCKABILLY
SWING DANCE NIGHT

\$7 **8PM**
20
ROGER HOOVER
ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY BLUES,
APPALACHIAN BALLADS, DIRGES
AND BEYOND

\$7 **21**
HITCHVILLE
MN'S PREMIER BIG-TIME COUNTRY
CLASSICS COVER BAND!

\$7 **22**
**RITUAL MADNESS
PODCAST PRESENTS**
AN EVENING OF METAL SPONSORED
BY ROLLING ROCK

\$10
9:30PM
23
NO COVER
7PM
**GSHARP & THE
BIZNESS**
THE BEST BAND MONEY CAN BUY!

24
NO COVER
8PM
**MANIC MUSIC
MONDAY**
UP-AND-COMING ARTISTS IN MN

25
NO COVER
8PM
**WALTER
CHANCELLOR
POWER DUO**

\$5 DANCE LESSONS
START AT 8PM
26
**THE BAD
COMPANIONS**
SHANNON & BILLS ROCKABILLY
SWING DANCE NIGHT

\$5 **8PM**
27
**THE NAKED
COWBOYS**
CLASSIC COUNTRY/ ROCK

\$15 **28**
**BIG SANDY AND
THE FLY RITE BOYS**
ROCKABILLY/COUNTRY/HILLBILLY
ADVANCE TICKETS \$12

\$5 **29**
**KALLIAH
& BLACK WATER**
ROOTS IN BLUES, COUNTRY, & ROCK

LEE'S IS THE PLACE TO BE IN NOVEMBER!



Bill Kirchen & Austin De Lone

FRIDAY
11.4.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$20 —
ADVANCE TICKETS \$10
Bill & Austin represent the core elements of
Americana music – R&B, country & rock.



FRIDAY
11.11.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$5 —
Mötley Crüe is a Minneapolis based, premier
Mötley Crüe tribute band.
OPENING ACT: Sick Twisted Puppies -
Stone Temple Pilots tribute band



SATURDAY
11.12.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$12 —
Paul Cebal and his world class band play
funky, percussive Americana and Soul
music that is both retro and timeless.



FRIDAY
11.18.16 | **9:00 PM**
— \$5 —
Rockin' country six piece powerhouse,
fronted by the husband/wife duo
of Cory and Kristen

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, LEE'S WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY'S BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER.



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MOTIONPOEMS.ORG



A-LIST

Whimsy and war at
 Children's Theatre



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

BEER

NORDEAST BIG RIVER BREW FEST

EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

This epic sampling event returns for its sixth celebration of all things brew, offering a little something for every palate. There will be local beers (Insight, Indeed, Fair State, Fulton), ciders (Two Towns, Wyndfall, Sociable Cider Werks), and booze (Wander North). Try something familiar and try something new. Food will be available from the likes of Chowgirls Killer Catering and Surdyk's, among others. Proceeds from the event benefit East Side Neighborhood Services. For tickets and more info, visit www.esns.org. 1 to 4 p.m. \$25/\$30 at the gate; \$10 designated driver. 1700 Second St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-781-6011. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

HOW TO HAVE FUN IN A CIVIL WAR

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY

Somali writer and performer Ifrah Mansour brings her wonderful piece *How to Have Fun in a Civil War* to the Children's Theatre Company this weekend. The production, directed by Lindsey Cacich, revisits Mansour's childhood memories of the 1991 Somali Civil War, telling the story of that conflict through the eyes of a seven-year-old child. Mansour and her support team interviewed 15 Somali community members as research for the piece, which she presented earlier this year at the Minnesota State Fair. Mansour often brings a sense of humor and whimsy to her work, deftly handling hard topics with a great deal of hope. 7 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$13/\$15 at the door. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-874-0400. **Through Sunday** —SHEILA REGAN

THEATER

THE BAKER'S WIFE

ARTISTRY

Based on a Marcel Pagnol film and built around a book by Joseph Stein with musical numbers by Stephen Schwartz (including the showstopping "Meadowlark"), *The Baker's Wife* seemed destined for Broadway glory. Instead, the inaugural 1976 production collapsed in the oven, succumbing to an unfocused script, last-minute cast substitutions, and plain bad luck. A high-profile 1989 remount (as well as other intermittent revivals) didn't fare much better and yet, oddly enough, 30-plus years of refinement would eventually produce a crowd-pleasing work centered on a baker, his young wife, and the lothario who comes between the two. With the lovelorn baker too heartbroken to practice his craft, the inhabitants of the rural French town must mend the marriage if they hope to have their cherished bread again. Produced by Artistry, this local staging boasts an impressive cast headlined by the exceptionally versatile Bradley Greenwald. Under the direction of Benjamin McGovern and supported by the musical direction of Anita Ruth with choreography by Linda Talcott Lee, this rarely produced musical should prove a savory treat for local theatergoers. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, plus Monday, November 7; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. \$29-\$41. 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington Arts Center, Bloomington; 952-563-4777. **Through November 12** —BRAD RICHASON

SUNDAY 10.23

FOOD

CHEESETOBERFEST

FOOD BUILDING

While beer is being widely celebrated this month, this event at the Food Building is all about cheese. Local

TOKEN RETRO Night

1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 70'S NIGHT
 STARTING AT 10PM

2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 80'S NIGHT
 STARTING AT 10PM

3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 90'S NIGHT
 STARTING AT 10PM

4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 00'S NIGHT
 STARTING AT 10PM

STARTING FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH

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The Food Building is about to get cheesy.

JEFF WHEELER

cheese, that is. Guests will be able to sample Minnesota varieties from Shepherd's Way Farms, Alemar Cheese, the Lone Grazer Creamery, Eichens Cheese & Bison, Redhead Creamery LLC, and Caves of Faribault via a giant cheeseboard. Or go with something that sticks to your ribs and warms you up in this fall weather, such as mac 'n' cheese made with Dumpling & Strand cheese, Noodlers at Large noodles, garlic sausage from Red Table Meat Co., and fermented kraut from GYST Fermentation Bar. You can also dine on aligot potatoes (cheese plus mashed potatoes), raclette (a melting cheese made from cow's milk), cheese biscuits, and pastries. Wash it down with beer from Indeed Brewing Company and the Draft Horse. Noon to 5 p.m. \$38. 1401 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-545-5555. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

MONDAY 10.24

COMEDY

DYLAN MORAN

PANTAGES THEATRE

Although he's not a household name in the United States, Dylan Moran has long been considered one of the funniest, most incisive comic minds on the international stage. While stateside audiences might recognize the Irish comic from the darkly humored U.K. sitcom *Black Books* (which Moran co-created and starred in) or his various acting pursuits (including memorable parts opposite friend Simon Pegg in *Shaun of the Dead* and *Run Fatboy Run*), such gigs are sidelines compared with his acclaimed career as a standup. Known for his wary outlook, literate phrasing, and inquisitive observations of irrational behavior, Moran has sharpened his wit with a restless intellect. But while a younger Moran could come across as a bit caustic, the veteran comic is now prone to admit his own cluelessness about long-term

relationships and effective parenting. Such hard-won maturity hasn't dulled Moran's edge so much as provide him with enough perspective to recognize his own contributions to cultural abnormalities and to acknowledge how the most unsavory of vices can be coping mechanisms for the inescapable presence of mortality. Moran's road-tested material is likely to be balanced with fresh riffing on late-breaking social and political insanity. 8 p.m. \$41. 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —BRAD RICHASON

BOOKS

ZEKE CALIGIURI

OPEN BOOK,
TARGET PERFORMANCE HALL

"It seems to get forgotten or diminished — the time when our city went crazy," writes Zeke Caligiuri, recalling 1995, the year he turned 18, the year Minneapolis became "Murderapolis." Born and raised in the Powderhorn neighborhood, Caligiuri follows an all too familiar downward spiral: gang-banger friends + drugs + alcohol + guns = jail time. What is unexpected is the poetic curiosity Caligiuri exhibits in *This Is Where I Am*, his memoir out this October from the University of Minnesota Press. Over approximately 300 pages, the author attempts to understand how he landed behind bars, despite several wholesome aspects of his youth: a bee-slaying grandmother, a baseball-loving father, a community mural project, a part-time job at Dairy Queen. What dark forces collided, and how did they lead him to the moment that resulted in a jail sentence of over 30 years? You'll have to read to find out. While Caligiuri remains incarcerated, there will still be a book-release party featuring readings by family, friends, and writing mentors. RSVP at z.umn.edu/whereiam. 6 p.m. doors. Free. 1011 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-215-2650. —ERICA RIVERA

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ORIGINAL SIN

The Birth of a Nation grapples with two pasts — the country's and the filmmaker's



Nate Parker
as Nat Turner

COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

By now you'll likely have heard of *The Birth of a Nation*, a retelling of Nat Turner's 1831 slave revolt that's made all manner of headlines this year.

Written, directed, and co-produced by Nate Parker, who also plays Turner, the movie was acquired for a record-breaking \$17.5 million after its buzzed-about premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January. From there, critical acclaim and Oscar glory seemed all but assured.

Then, in August, a different kind of headline emerged: Parker and his co-writer, Jean McGianni Celestin, had been accused of raping a fellow student while attending Penn State in 1999. (The case was a matter of public record, but few were aware of it.) Parker was acquitted, while Celestin was found guilty and later had his conviction overturned. Most troubling of all, their unnamed accuser

took her own life in 2012.

It falls on the public to tangle with the question of how — or even whether — to watch this movie. Woody Allen, Roman Polanski, and too many others have presented their fans with similar quandaries. But Parker doesn't have the benefit of decades or even years of experience and goodwill that often inclines viewers to turn a blind eye to scandal and separate the artist from his work.

It's a conflict made especially difficult by the nature of this performance and the fact that he's in almost every single scene.

"You're a child of God," Turner's father tells the boy (at first played by Tony Espinosa) at a pivotal moment early in his life. From this and a vaguely surreal religious rite Turner believes himself to be touched by God, a belief borne out by his exceptional intelligence and reading lessons from the woman who owns him. The books he gently touches in her library are beyond him, she says

in the condescending tone specific to slaveowners in movies presented as slightly more enlightened by their peers. But there's one that'd be just right for him: the Bible.

Behind the camera Parker shepherds things along with a confidence belying his status as a first-time filmmaker, but in front of it he sometimes stumbles. The actor can be so fixated on portraying Turner the leader and preacher that he forgets to simply portray Turner the man. There are few everyday moments to contrast the grand speeches and calls to action, and little sense of what he might have been like to friends and family.

You can see his inner conflict deepen from scene to scene as he slowly comes to accept that the only way out of this life is to rise up, though he knows that the loss of his own life — and those of his brethren — is likely. It's as though he never has a choice. Hindsight in historical fiction inclines us to look at the events of the past as inevitable, even preordained,

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

directed by Nate Parker
area theaters, now playing

and *The Birth of a Nation* regards Turner's uprising not just as something that did happen but as something that had to happen. It was an inextricable chapter in America's messy story.

Turner is eventually spurred to action by a rape, as is too often the case in movies about great men righteously taking on their oppressors. The fact that this particular assault doesn't correlate with the historical record has only intensified the controversy surrounding Parker and his film. In its graphic depictions of brutality and rousing battle sequences, *The Birth of a Nation* is not unlike *Braveheart*: the same sense of bloody grandeur, the same complicated grappling with the past. That it doesn't get all its facts straight is troublingly apropos of a movie whose own story is still being written. **C**

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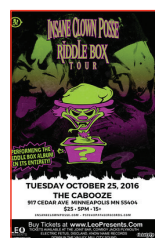
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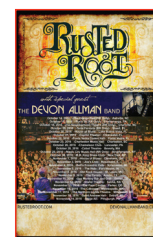
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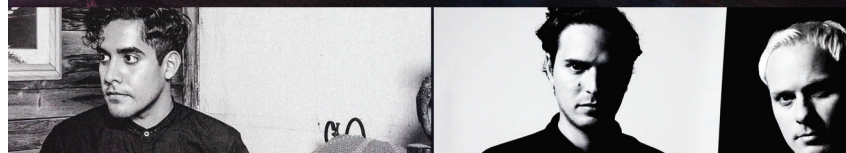
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A MODERN TRAGEDY

A feminist slant takes *Pericles* into timely territory



Tatiana Williams
and Audrey Park

PAULA KELLER

BY JAY GABLER

When Michelle Hensley began making plans to adapt *Pericles* for her company, Ten Thousand Things, she didn't know the Guthrie Theater would also swoop in and present Joseph Haj's take on Shakespeare's play. One imagines that she also couldn't have guessed that her *Pericles* would be presented during the final stretch of a presidential battle between the first female major-party nominee and a man who brags about assaulting women.

That's relevant because this is a pointedly feminist take on *Pericles*, complete with a revised final scene that has the goddess Diana (Karen Wiese-Thompson) lecturing the eponymous wanderer (Ansa Akyea) about the women he's slighted along the course of his journey. It's not for purists, but it offers a provocative counterpoint to the unproblematic emotional apotheosis that *Pericles* gets in the standard script.

Hensley, who enlisted playwright Kira Obolensky to help craft the new ending, also made substantial trims to bring the play down to two hours in length. The irony

of Ten Thousand Things' *Pericles* is that the production's fleet-footed approach — as well as the casting of the sympathetic Akyea, whose face constantly signals emotional availability — actually makes Diana's reprimand feel less justified than it would if the preceding scenes had been more conventionally presented.

In the Ten Thousand Things version — staged in the round with house lights up, per the company's norm — literal signposts mark the various destinations on the Prince of Tyre's tortuous journey. *Pericles* finds and loses both a wife (Audrey Park) and a daughter (Tatiana Williams) while fleeing the wrath of Antiochus (Pearce Bunting), a king who's been forcing his daughter (Maggie Chestovich) into his bed.

Pericles could have done a lot more for that captive girl, Diana points out, as well as for *Pericles*' own daughter, Marina, and his wife, Thaisa. *Pericles* (spoiler alert!) doesn't even check Thaisa for a pulse before tossing her overboard at the behest of the superstitious sailors piloting the vessel where she seems to have died in childbirth.

PERICLES

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Okay, sure, those were extenuating circumstances. Diana might have more of a point regarding the daughter who *Pericles* not only drops off, in infancy, with two guardians of questionable character — he's then happy to have Marina, as an adult, marry a guy (James Rodriguez) who first met her after paying to take her virginity.

As all this plays out, performers run back and forth through the audience, often talking directly to individual audience members and occasionally slipping into anachronistic slang. Scenes tend to fly by, with actors jumping among characters, most notably Wiese-Thompson, who plays the storyteller Gower and also rotates among other personae so quickly that in one case, she actually changes character in mid-sentence.

It's an accessible and engaging approach to this play, which, as Shakespeare goes, isn't exactly Shakespeare. While it might not be the *Pericles* you want, right now it might just be the *Pericles* we need.



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THE RETURN OF PACHYDERM

John Kuker's vision is realized in a loving restoration of the legendary Minnesota recording studio

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

Legends may never die, but they do haunt.

In 2011, when sound engineer John Kuker purchased Pachyderm Recording Studio, the place was dilapidated to the point where it felt more like a flophouse than the storied environment where Babes in Toyland, P.J. Harvey, and Nirvana tracked albums in the '90s. Squatters had taken up residence in the once-Kubrickian halls of the Cannon Falls property, and trees had grown into the picture windows and through the ceiling.

The three-acre estate where Pachyderm sits boasts a scenic view of an old-growth forest and a trickling stream. On it are two buildings — a 6,300-square-foot, five-bedroom house built as a vacation stop for the Mensing family in 1964, and a separate 2,500-square-foot recording studio built by second owner Jim Nickel in 1988. The third owner, a mortgage broker named Matt Mueller, stopped looking after the buildings sometime after he sprung for Los Angeles in the 2000s. Eventually, Pachyderm was abandoned, sitting idly in the artistic wilderness for years.

Kuker's longtime protégé Nick Tveitbakk oversaw the three-year remodel, working to channel his confidant's painstaking vision while Kuker worked at his other studio, Seedy Underbelly in Los Angeles. Tveitbakk had a set of photos from the house's original opening in the 1960s and a mandate to make sure the work was done right.

"It was a lot of really nice design features that need a lot of attention," Tveitbakk says. "A lot of the work was really inspired by that original design but also how John saw things. Now it's a nice hybrid of his vision and the way the house was when it was originally built."

The work on Pachyderm was nearly



Inside the house portion of Pachyderm



JERARD FAGERBERG

complete in early 2015. The atrium and bedrooms had been redecorated with vintage furniture Kuker collected from eBay and secondhand shops, and he had a plush blue-and-navy retro-style rug installed. Other than that rug, almost none of the decor was new. Contemporary stuff didn't vibe with the spirits Kuker hoped to evoke.

"When you walk into the house, you walk into a time machine," says Kuker's brother, Matt. "It feels you're walking into the 1970s."

Though some repairs — like the landscaping and driveway — had to be triaged, Pachyderm was scheduled to reopen in June of last year. Tveitbakk was already in the studio tracking bands like Trampled

by Turtles and Norma Jean while Kuker worked in L.A., and the pair were eager to show off their revitalized sanctum. Tragically, Kuker never made it back to Minnesota to see through that plan.

On February 2, 2015, Kuker was found dead at his California home, having succumbed to a heart condition in his sleep. He was 40 years old, and though his passion project was close to finished, his calling was far from realized.

"It was hard, but we're getting through it," Matt Kuker says, his voice weakening. "You always wanna watch after your little brother. As time goes, things are easier. We don't forget about him, but accepting it is a little bit easier as time goes on."

After John Kuker's death, stewardship over Pachyderm passed to Matt and his parents. Once the family sorted the legality of the estate, they decided the best way to memorialize John was to finish Pachyderm down to every exacting detail. They finally hit John Kuker's standard of completeness this fall, and the Kukers and Tveitbakk celebrated on October 15 with an open house at the complex.

"It felt like the right thing to do," says Matt Kuker, who now serves as president of Pachyderm. "We knew we had to keep it

going because this was his dream. This place was his love."

Walking in the door, you instantly feel the level of care. The tile countertops. The chartreuse velvet sofas. The globular lamps aside each bed. These details scream John Kuker.

"One of the things that drives me is doing things to make him proud in the way he'd want them to be done," adds Tveitbakk, who works as general

manager and in-house engineer. "The last couple of months have been really difficult moving forward without him, but I feel so grateful for having been able to know someone like that. Just to be able to have that and carry it on, it feels really good."

John Kuker was a man who believed in the spiritual side of recording. He strove to create atmospheres, summoning energy from the ghosts of the room around him. That's why he never invested in new furniture or equipment — he wanted pieces that contributed stories.

"If someone is comfortable, it'll be that much easier for them to get that good take or make that amazing record," Tveitbakk explains. "Maintaining a positive atmosphere so people can be creative. That's the biggest lesson he ever taught me."

Twin Cities drummer JT Bates has recorded at Pachyderm several times through the years. He became close friends with John Kuker over their mutual love of jazz. He's spent plenty of days gazing across the grounds and divining inspiration.

"It just has the most beautiful vibe," says Bates, who led the house band during Pachyderm's open house. "The thing about art and music that's a little mysti-



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MUSIC



JERARD FAGERBERG

Outside the recording studio portion of Pachyderm

cal is that collective energy. That energy doesn't all go away. Some of it stays there and adds to the overall vibe."

Pachyderm doesn't feel like it's been renovated. There are new details, including the stone retaining wall and the trio of gilded elephants in the yard, but they integrate elementally with the throw-back surroundings. Pachyderm, in fact, doesn't feel reopened at all. It feels like it never closed.

More than that, the studio is in better shape than it's ever been. John Kuker's two studios in New York and L.A. have been closed, and all the gear, including an awe-inspiring array of microphones, was moved to Pachyderm. The new sound board — a vintage 1980s API that John Kuker scored in Europe — is live, and Tveitbakk has been happily at work. If

you sense a warm presence on Haley Bonar's latest album, August's critically lauded *Impossible Dream*, it's Pachyderm seeping into the record.

It's inescapable. Pachyderm is a studio that engrosses. It is made of both wood and energies. A place whose influence is incorporeal and supernatural. As Bates puts it: "That place is just magical."

Outside the studio door, tacked up on the pastel ultra-shag on the wall, hangs a portrait of John Kuker. He sits on a gaudy sofa blissfully strumming a guitar. His presence emanates from that image to all corners of Pachyderm, the house and the studio. It's in the fibers of the armchairs and the paint on the rafters. Were you to pick up one of the guitars and strum a chord, you could almost feel him there leaning in to listen. **CD**

CRITICS' PICKS

MICK JENKINS

AMSTERDAM BAR AND HALL, FRIDAY 10.21

The latest Red Bull Sound Select tour to hit St. Paul is headlined by rapper Mick Jenkins, one of Chicago's sharpest lyricists — which, considering the number of talented young voices emerging from that city, is saying something. Between the 2014 mixtape *The Water[s]* and September's *The Healing Component*, Jenkins' latest two full-lengths have established him as a formidable bar-for-bar writer. More impressive than his individual lines, though, is his use of water as a metaphor for knowledge and his deft takes on race and faith. Jenkins is originally from Alabama, and on Friday he'll be joined by another Southerner now based in Chicago: St. Louis native and Zero Fatigue crew member Smino.

Smino has quickly generated serious buzz for himself, with a penchant for aqueous, wobbly beats from Zero Fatigue's Monte Booker, atop which he fluidly blends rapping and singing (he's got plenty of personality to boot). Twin Cities alt-R&B prodigy and SoundCloud star Dizzy Fae, best known for her "Complexion" collab with Minneapolis producer Su Na, rounds out the night's triple bill. **18+.** 8 p.m. \$3 with RSVP; \$10 without RSVP. 6 Sixth St. W., St. Paul; 612-285-3112. —MICHAEL MADDEN

M83

SKYWAY THEATRE, FRIDAY 10.21

For the past decade and a half, M83 have been about massive, breathtaking sheets of sound. The French electronic project's sweeping albums invited comparisons to the likes of Brian Eno, My Bloody Valentine, and even the

Smashing Pumpkins. Increasingly, though, mastermind frontman Anthony Gonzalez's individual songs are bringing M83 to a new level of popularity while retaining the project's unique traits. The 2011 double album *Hurry Up, We're Dreaming* — featuring the ubiquitous “Midnight City” and its unforgettable, distorted vocal riffs — remains Gonzalez's towering masterpiece. But this year's intentionally scattered *Junk*, which follows Gonzalez's soundtrack work for 2013 Tom Cruise vehicle *Oblivion* and the same year's French film *You and the Night*, has highlights that emerge out of its deliberate messiness. With a vocal from Norwegian singer-songwriter Susanne Sundfør, “For the Kids” is a stunning ballad, while the neon, horn-fueled “Road Blaster” could easily become an all-time signature M83 track, featuring some of Gonzalez's most confident singing yet. With Shura and DJ Jake Rudh. 18+. 9 p.m. \$37.50. 711 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-6100. —MICHAEL MADDEN

I LOVE THE '90S TOUR

TARGET CENTER, SATURDAY 10.22
Trapper Keepers. Ecto-Coolers. Tamagotchis. Waco. Other references. If the above words resonate with your millennial heart, you might just be the target demo for I Love the '90s, the triple-headliner nostalgia parade coming to Target Center. Among the Clinton-era radio-rap hitmakers set to perform: Vanilla Ice, Salt-N-Pepa, Coolio, Kid 'n Play, Rob Base, and Young MC. Don't know what to expect? Here's a helpful primer from the event's press release: “Audiences can expect to hear chart-topping hits like ‘Let's Talk About Sex,’ ‘Shoop,’ ‘Ice, Ice Baby,’ ‘It Takes Two,’ ‘Gangsta's Paradise,’ ‘Bust a Move,’ and MORE during a fun-filled night out that doubles as an arena-sized dance party.” The tour is a smart, pride-saving move for the involved legacy acts. Rather than gig solo at outer-ring suburban casinos, the performers can form, Voltron-style, and still retain stadium cachet. The approach is similar to the one taken by the Kings of the Mic Tour — featuring LL Cool J, Ice Cube, Public Enemy, and De La Soul — which hit Target Center in 2013, but was depressingly under-attended. The I Love the '90s Tour began back in April and runs through February, so it's presumably packing its marathon string of dates. 6 p.m. \$29.50-\$200. 600 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-673-0900. —JAY BOLLER

BRAND NEW

ROY WILKINS AUDITORIUM,
SUNDAY 10.23

It's been a decade since emo lords Brand

New put out their career-defining album, *The Devil and God Are Raging Inside Me*, featuring depressing classics like the opening soft-into-freak-out “Sowing Season (Yeah)” and the spooky, crawling “Jesus Christ.” In celebration, the band will perform the entire LP each night of their current tour. Brand New promised their cult fanbase a new full-length in 2016, which would be their first since 2009's underwhelming *Daisy*. But last month, they released a statement on Facebook apologizing and revoking their promise, with no hint of a future release date. Brand New have a funny way of jerking their fans back and forth — the New York four-piece threaten breakups more often than they put out music. Their summer tour T-shirts even read, “2000-2018,” forecasting the band's death. Regardless of Brand New's status, diehards are always ready to shed a tear and lose their minds to singer-songwriter Jesse Lacey's shaky crowd. New-emo heavyweights the Front Bottoms and Modern Baseball open. 7 p.m. \$35-\$45. Roy Wilkins Auditorium, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-265-4800. —GRACE BIRNSTENGEL

RUDRESH MAHANTHAPPA

VIEUX CARRÉ, SUNDAY 10.23

Alto saxophonist and composer Rudresh Mahanthappa, the newly appointed director of jazz at Princeton, is a musical alchemist. Not only has he devised a clever, innovative syntheses of the Carnatic music of his South Indian heritage and cutting-edge 21st-century jazz, he's a premier progressive jazz master, combining intellectual curiosity and visceral thrills. The project he'll bring to downtown St. Paul, for instance, is based on his latest album, *Bird Calls*, a unique, lavishly praised tribute to jazz icon Charlie “Bird” Parker that topped many (including Downbeat's) album-of-the-year polls. Characteristically, Mahanthappa didn't take the conventional approach of simply playing Parker. Instead, he gleaned bits of Bird tunes — melodies, rhythms, harmonies, solos — and used them as inspiration for entirely new, sparkingly contemporary pieces that dissect Bird's spirit and profound influence on modern jazz. “Talin Is Thinking,” for example, takes a snippet of melody from “Parker's Mood” into a dark, sinuous context of aggressive rhythms. Meanwhile, Mahanthappa and young trumpet ace Adam O'Farrill play tag with their lines, emulating the relationship between Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. 8 p.m. \$35. 408 St. Peter St., St. Paul; 651-291-2715.

—RICK MASON

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Trump Talk

How to talk to your kids
about the world's Trumps



Dan Savage

Waiting to pay for my groceries at the market this evening, this guy, stinking of booze, says to my 9-year-old daughter, "Sweetheart, can you put the divider thing there for me?" He then thumps two huge bottles of vodka down on the belt. I move closer to my daughter; he then reaches his hand over me and wraps his hand around her arm, saying, "Now, you be nice to your Mommy, sweetie." I pluck his hand off. "Do not touch my child," I say. My other hand is pressed against my daughter's ribs, and I can feel her heart POUNDING. "You have a beautiful daughter," he says. We leave. "I hated that man," my daughter says once we get in the car. "He smelled bad, I wanted to hit him, if anyone ever does that to me again I'm going to scream." Here we effing go: "Sometimes you have to be hypervigilant," I tell my daughter, "because some gross men out there feel they are entitled to touch us." And then I share my story: "When I was a little girl...." I don't even remember the first time it happened to me. I don't remember the last time some pervert rubbed up against me. But that's what you have to deal with when you are a girl. We have to learn to brush this shit off, to make sure that this endless assault course of predators doesn't take one bit of your pride, your confidence, or your sense of peace as you walk through this world. I am so angry. We should call this the "Trump Talk." The depressing conversation that every parent needs to have with their little girl about revolting, predatory, entitled men. *The Trump Talk.*

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER
DISCUSS ENRAGING REALITIES

I'm sorry about what was done to your daughter, but I'm glad you were there with her when it happened.

The author Kelly Oxford, in response to Donald Trump's horrific comments about sexually assaulting women, called on women to tweet about their first assaults under the hashtag #notokay. Oxford's post went viral, and I was struck by how many women were alone the first time they were assaulted.

In fact, a lot of women I know were your daughter's age the first time it happened

to them, but they were alone. Tragically, many assumed that they had invited this on themselves somehow, and most didn't go to their parents for fear of getting into trouble. And when it inevitably happened again, some became convinced they were indeed to blame because they thought it wasn't happening to anyone else, just them.

So thank God you were there with your daughter, MADDER. And in that car ride home you inoculated your daughter with your message (you are a human being and you have a right to move through this world unmolested) before gross predators could infect her with theirs (you are only an object and we have a right to touch you). Every little girl should be so lucky as to have a trusted adult standing by ready to intervene when it does happen.

Regarding your suggestion, MADDER, I've received roughly 10 million emails begging me to do for Donald Trump what I did for Rick Santorum: My readers and I redefined santorum ("the frothy mixture of lube and fecal matter that is sometimes the byproduct of anal sex") and some wanted us to do the same for Trump. People even sent in suggestions, but they all struck me as trivial and snarky—and I don't think there's anything trivial about the racism, sexism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and violence that Trump has mainstreamed and normalized.

But then your email arrived, MADDER, and I set aside the column I was already working on to rush your idea into print. Your suggestion—that parents call the conversation they have with their daughters about predatory and entitled men the "Trump Talk"—is apt. It's not trivial and it's not snarky. It has gravitas, and here's hoping "Trump Talk" isn't just widely adopted, but universally practiced. Because no little girl who gets groped on a bus or in a grocery store or on a subway or in a classroom should ever have to wonder if she did something wrong.

mail@savagelove.net

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CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
I Love Chicago, Inc. is now DBA: Love From Minneapolis 505 Nicollet Ave, Suite 100 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State on 9/23/2016

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
Mobilia LLC is now DBA: Homilian 7809 Southtown Center #238 Bloomington, MN 55431 Filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State on 10/04/16

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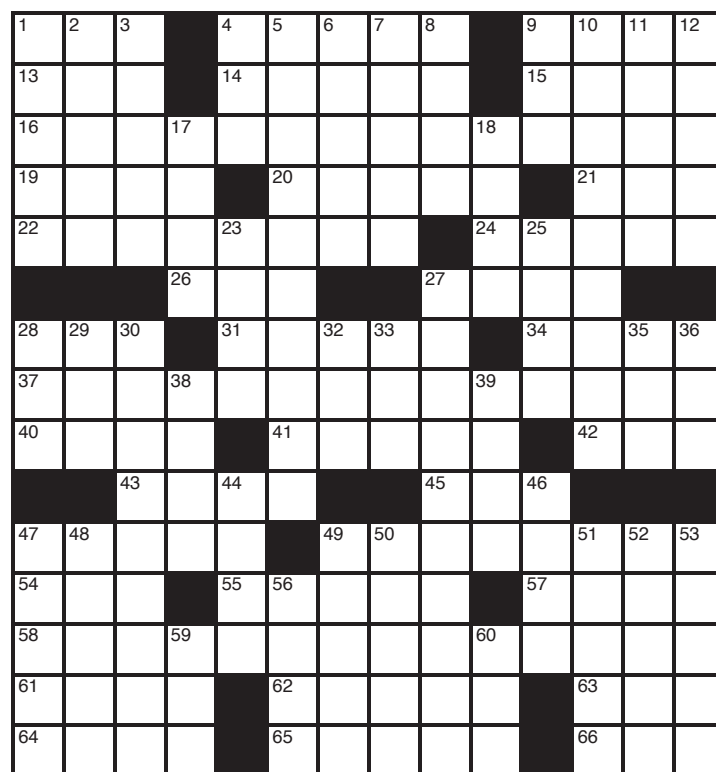
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PREPARED SPEECH

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 "He's picking on me again!"
- 4 Urged (on)
- 9 Tablet with Game Center
- 13 High card
- 14 Most populous of the Greek Islands
- 15 Coach K's school
- 16 Move onto a different subject
- 19 Simply the best
- 20 Atlanta university
- 21 Scholarship fund org.
- 22 With 49-Across, stop swearing
- 24 Blue blood
- 26 Summer Games org.
- 27 NBA star Gasol
- 28 Shipping co. with a shield logo
- 31 Congo neighbor, about 20 years ago
- 34 [Hey! ... Hey!]
- 37 Demonstrate great affection
- 40 Crisp of the Indians
- 41 1970s singer Gray
- 42 Vinyl, in slang
- 43 Bothers
- 45 Aerosol spray chemical
- 47 Maker of the Hacky Sack
- 49 See 22-Across
- 54 Owner of the MAKERS vlog
- 55 Hoops
- 57 Florence river

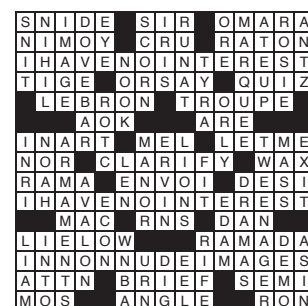
- 58 Theme of this puzzle?
- 61 Poor part of town
- 62 Based on ___ story
- 63 Turning-down word
- 64 Rushes along in the past
- 65 In the ___ of
- 66 Duet number?

Down

- 1 Talking parrot
- 2 Choreographer Annabelle Lopez ___
- 3 Financial resources
- 4 Ticker tape?
- 5 Non-citizen's identifications
- 6 "You follow?"
- 7 Group belief
- 8 Hunter's prey
- 9 "You bet ___"
- 10 Purina dog food brand
- 11 Japanese dog
- 12 Windshield sticker
- 17 Soda brand that sounds like a type of sock
- 18 Model Banks
- 23 Seep (out)
- 25 Test where handwriting doesn't count
- 27 Very careful and precise
- 28 Will Ferrell's alma mater
- 29 Vietnamese soup
- 30 A wink or a nod
- 32 ___ Jima

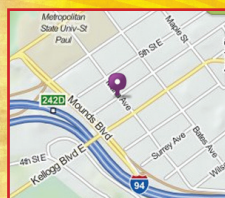
- 33 Short item at a barbecue
- 35 Wrestler Marie
- 36 Enrique Peña Nieto is its pres.
- 38 Mezcal "ingredient"
- 39 Considerable size
- 44 Expensive kind of beef
- 46 WhatsApp conversation
- 47 Kate of TV's " Fargo"
- 48 Google-like tech company on "Silicon Valley"
- 49 Cuban hero José
- 50 Prayer's opening
- 51 Praying female figure, in art
- 52 International jurisprudence
- 53 City with the world's busiest train station
- 56 Stoker of horror
- 59 Le Mans distances: Abbr.
- 60 Achieved

Last Week's Answer



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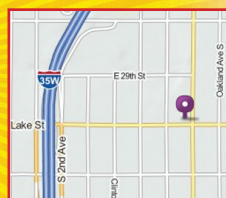
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